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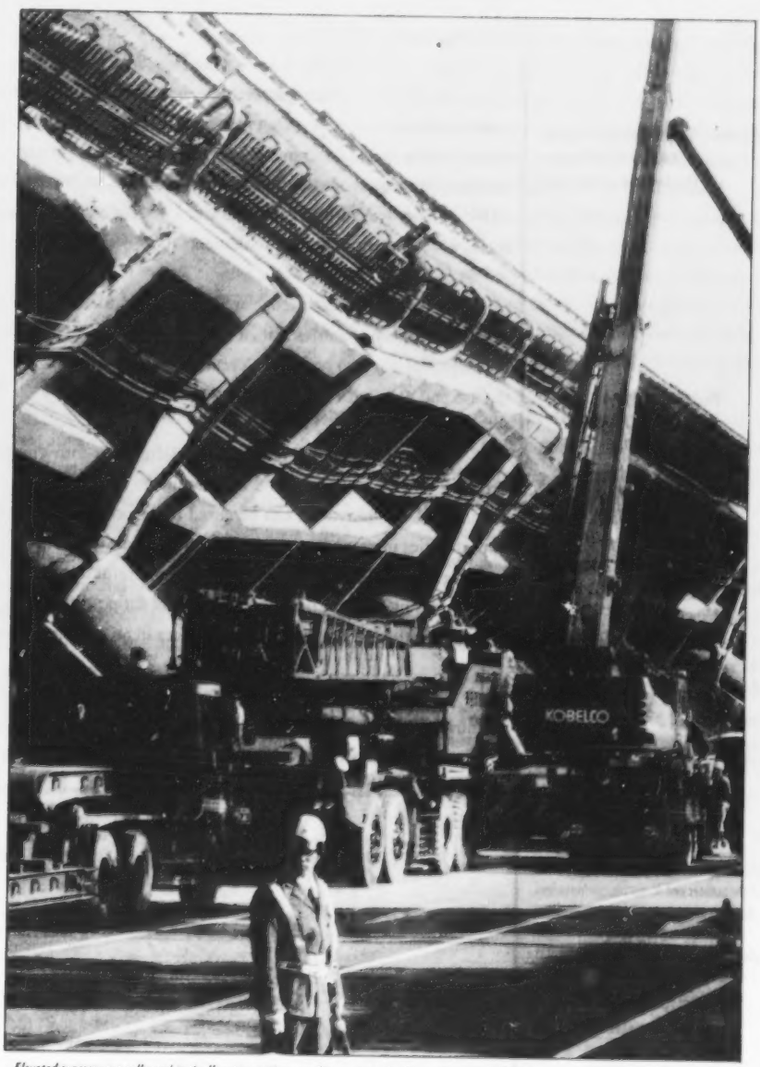
Habitat Debate

August 1995

Vol 1. No 2

UNCHS (HABITAT)
THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE
FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS



Elevated expressways collapsed in the Hanshin earthquake. Photo credit: Dr. Kimiro Meguro, INCEDE Newsletter Special Issue of January 1995.

Editorial

HABITAT
DEBATE

UNCHS (HABITAT)
THE UNITED NATIONS CENTRE
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HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AS THE KEY TO STABILITY

Instead of ushering in a period of global peace and stability, the end of the Cold War has in many cases produced the opposite effect. In each of the last few years, at least 30 major armed conflicts have been in progress. Although they differ from past wars in that most of them now take place within national boundaries, their impact is similar to those of conventional wars: loss of human lives, increased numbers of refugees and displaced persons, large-scale environmental degradation, massive destruction of human settlements, economic and social collapse.

International assistance to affected countries has largely focused on emergency relief measures. However, there is a growing consensus in the international community that the emergency approach is inadequate to meet the present challenge. Ambassador Juan Somavia of Chile summed it up recently at the Social Summit in Copenhagen when he said: "The main effort is to debate the social issues — to acknowledge that these are the real security problems of the future." It is now widely recognized that in order to address root causes and prevent emergencies, there is a need to link emergency assistance to development assistance and to shift emphasis from curative actions to proactive strategies. To meet this goal, a subprogramme on disaster mitigation, reconstruction and development has been included in the 1996-1997 work programme of the Centre. Disaster mitigation also forms an integral part of the preparatory process leading to the Habitat II Conference.

As shelter provision and settlement planning constitute both humanitarian needs and developmental resources, human settlements development provides the means to address the immediate needs of the dispossessed and the causes of their plight, and to do so simultaneously. Over the past two decades, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has acquired wide experience in executing projects related to natural disasters. Although human-made disasters differ in many ways from natural disasters, the problem is basically the same: to protect human life and economic and social development in human settlements.

Based on the experience acquired in natural disaster mitigation and reconstruction, the Centre is now actively assisting war-torn countries in their efforts to rebuild their societies. UNCHS experience indicates that human settlements development can also be used to prevent disasters and to tackle the root causes of wars, often caused by conflicts over the use and distribution of land and water resources.

Community participation in rebuilding war-torn communities can reconcile rival groups and heal wounds. Pressure on overexploited land and resources can be relieved by identifying underexploited land and unexploited resources. Unemployment can be eased by reconstruction activities and by increasing non-agricultural employment opportunities in secondary and intermediate cities. Reconstruction planners can provide independent monitoring, early warning and data collection services that are useful in preventive action. Regional planning processes can provide a tool for settling resource disputes, identify and define critical issues, and provide policy-makers with advice and assistance in the allocation of land and other resources in an equitable manner.

This issue of **Habitat Debate** is produced to initiate debate on practical strategies for conflict prevention in countries facing strife and reconstruction in war-torn countries. It attempts to show that disasters can be avoided, and that human settlements development can, indeed, play an important role in conflict prevention and the maintenance of peace and stability.

Dr. Wally N'Dow
Assistant-Secretary-General,
UNCHS (Habitat)
and Secretary-General of the
Second United Nations Conference
on Human Settlements (Habitat II)

HABITAT'S ASSISTANCE IN THE CONTEXT OF WAR-TORN SOCIETIES AND CIVIL STRIFE

by Heinz Kull and Sylvie Lacroux

The Human Development Report of 1994 refers to "the rising tide of disasters", and indeed the number and impact of disasters, with consequent suffering especially among poorer countries and people, has been rising steadily. The scope of disaster relief has in recent years come to over $US3 billion a year, more than ten times the figure spent a decade ago. This large increase in disaster-relief spending is only partly linked to an increase in the number and scope of natural disasters; the bulk is due to the dramatic rise of human-made disasters such as civil war and civil strife. One need only turn on the radio or television to hear of the latest horror, be it in Rwanda, Somalia, or the former Yugoslavia.

The United Nations in general, and UNCHS (Habitat) in particular, has a long history of work related to natural and industrial disasters. Thus it was a natural extension of such disaster mitigation and relief work when the General Assembly in its resolution 46/182 of 1991 requested a more coordinated response by the United Nations system to humanitarian disasters. In October 1993, UNCHS became a founding member of the Inter-Agency Special Committee on the Continuum from Relief to Development. Almost immediately a joint Habitat/United Nations Environment Programme Continuum Task Force was set up, and began its work.

Ongoing programmes reveal a wide spectrum of assistance, stretching from Afghanistan to Guatemala, from Iraq to Rwanda. Partners range from the Governments involved, through a Dutch institute specialized in emergency monitoring, to the joint UNCHS/United Nations Development Programme/World Bank Urban Management Programme.

They include:

- ***post-disaster assessment missions which aim to restore governance, re-establish local economies and rehabilitate human settlements;***
- ***rehabilitation /reconstruction programmes and projects, often undertaken in volatile political and even violent environments;***
- ***programmes to safely return displaced persons and reintegrate returnees;***
- ***emergency settlement monitoring, Visual Settlement Planning, and early warning and preparedness;***
- ***research and conference activities, e.g., on "African Countries in Crisis" and their specific settlements issues.***

Such efforts have recently been strengthened at meetings of the Commission on Human Settlements, the governing body of UNCHS (Habitat), and of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II, the City Summit to be held in Istanbul next June.

The Commission at its fifteenth session this April/May included in the Centre's work programme for the 1996-1997 biennium a new subprogramme, "Managing disaster mitigation, reconstruction and development". As the title suggests, the objectives of the sub-programme again follow the continuum from disaster prevention or preparedness, through emergency relief, on to rehabilitation and reconstruction, and finally, long-term development.

In order to strengthen Habitat's capacity to respond in the framework of this relief-to-development continuum, the agency is creating a special disaster management unit to cover all disaster-related activities of the Centre. This takes into account the inter-relatedness of various forms of disaster, obviating any artificial distinctions.

The Centre has also been given the mandate to incorporate disaster mitigation and (re) development in the Habitat II Global Plan of Action, reviewed by PrepCom II, again in April/May 1995. Already it, together with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, DHA, is carrying out a series of sub-regional workshops on disaster reduction in Africa — thus helping Governments to incorporate disaster mitigation measures as they prepare their national plans of action on sustainable human settlements.

UNCHS intends to further elaborate a series of guidelines on initiatives to be taken at local, national and international levels. These stress elements such as pro-active land management, quick and equitable distribution of resources, and the strengthening of capacity-building and training.

Given the tasks underway and being planned, it is expected that this new unit will most favourably influence the scope and quality of Habitat's assistance to its partners — be they Governments, others in the United Nations system, or the international community in general. □

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EMERGENCY RELIEF OR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE?

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT POLICIES FOR REFUGEES

by Roger Zetter

The Failure of the Emergency Assistance Model

Ambitions for an integrated, development-led approach to refugee crises were set out at ICARA II in 1984, but these ambitions have never been fulfilled. Instead, emergency approaches and pragmatic responses have consistently driven the provision of humanitarian assistance to refugees. Such is the strength of this orthodox emergency relief model deployed by the international regime, that its supremacy seems unchallengeable despite the fact that it fails to improve the livelihood or conditions of refugees or to mitigate the impact on local host communities. Refugee dependency on international agencies and donors becomes inevitable. This is accompanied by agency proliferation and "parallel" administrative structures which undermine the autonomy and capacity of those governments which have requested external assistance.

By insisting that assistance is provided only to refugees (not hosts as well) and that it is delivered through essentially static emergency or care-and-maintenance programmes involving the large-scale encampment of refugees, externally imposed relief programmes become detached from development strategies and the host population is marginalised. Moreover, host countries are prevented from promoting self-settlement or more systematic settlement policies, since they are never likely to obtain support for the developmental investment necessitated by such policies.

But emergency assistance programmes are simply unsustainable and ultimately destructive — environmentally, socially and economically. And unless the inadequacies of the emergency relief model are challenged, it will continue to impede more positive long-term and potentially more humane responses which, it is contended, would be more in harmony with the needs of both hosts and refugees. Developmental strategies, which plan for refugees and hosts in an integrated way, are an absolute necessity even in an emergency environment.

Why, therefore, is the emergency model so dominant? The answer is simple. In crisis after crisis — Ethiopian refugees in Sudan, Afghans in Pakistan, Mozambicans in Malawi, the millions of refugees in the former Communist States (FCSs) of Eastern Europe riven by ethnic nationalism and now, Rwandese refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire — the international humanitarian regime, and sometimes the host countries, always wrongly assume the refugee phenomenon to be temporary. In any case, political interests usually seek to discourage the long-term presence of refugees. That repatriation may be the best durable solution has created the imperative for maintaining refugees in endlessly temporary conditions, when all the evidence shows that protracted exile in the norm.

Shelter and Settlement : A Development Sector

Nowhere are the structural contradictions and institutional failures of the emergency model more evident than in shelter and settlement provision for refugees. Rarely, if at all, are systematic policies and plans prepared and implemented for this sector. There is an almost complete lack of strategic and coordinated spatial development for refugees. Usually, this sector forms another component of general logistics in the conventional relief model, not an element in its own right. And yet, where refugees settle or are encamped have major impacts on the long-term livelihood of refugees and their hosts as well; examples are access to land and productive resources, the introduction of new skills and expansion of local labour markets.

Because we are dealing with durable commodities, policies for shelter and settlement are equally significant and by definition, developmental and long-term in the refugee setting just as much as in orthodox development situations; examples here are the provision of infrastructure, the stimulus to the building materials industry, and demand-led development with potential multiplier effects on local and regional economies.

These impacts may be negative, the "refugee burden", but considerable empirical evidence shows these outcomes can be positive too — in the Sudan in the late 1970s early 1980s, in Pakistan in the 1980s, in Malawi in the 1980s -- and that they occur spontaneously. Unfortunately, official resistance often inhibits the contribution which refugee settlement can make to the developmental resources and potential of a host country. If properly planned on the other hand, these impacts would be much more positive and stimulate economic growth.

The best example of a planned response is in Cyprus after the Turkish invasion of 1974. Nearly 40 per cent of the ethnic Greek-Cypriot population was displaced. The Government responded to the disaster as a developmental opportunity by utilizing the rehousing programme for refugees as the leading sector in the economic reconstruction of the unoccupied south of the island. Government-built estates, many sites-and-services schemes and other housing initiatives were planned on the periphery of urban areas, often linked to employment centres. These policies not only provided permanent housing for the enormous numbers of displaced people (in proportion to the total population) within 15 years, but prodigious rates of economic growth were also achieved in which the refugees were both producers and consumers of the mass housing programme. As a viable response to mass displacement in former Yugoslavia and some of the FCSs, the success of the Cyprus experience deserves attention.

NICOSIA MASTER PLAN

A LANDMARK FOR FUTURE CYPRUS

In short, fundamental revision of current concepts and practices in this sector is needed and innovative planning tools, methodologies and strategies at different spatial scales are essential.

Shelter and Settlement : New Approaches

What is needed are: a micro-to-macro orientation; coordinated planning processes in which the relief and development models are complementary, thereby integrating provision for hosts and refugees; and a fully developed project cycle.

At the micro level, the focal point of the current relief model, much greater attention must be given to the ways in which refugees' own informal and self-help shelter mechanisms can be supported and enhanced. After all, the majority of refugees settle themselves by these autonomous processes. But refugee camp planners ignore these local processes. In addition, they fail to draw on the many lessons offered by the rich, "parallel" experience of spontaneous housing processes, indigenous construction technologies, artisanal labour and community mobilization in the rapidly urbanizing cities of the developing world. Neglecting these experiences in refugee crises has led to the importation of culturally inappropriate space standards and plot sizes, alien technologies, prefabricated structures and often even building materials, always as a first rather than a last resort — even in countries like former Yugoslavia which had a sophisticated construction industry. These emergency "solutions" are not only costly, they are incapable of local replication and therefore pre-empt locally-based developmental approaches to protracted exile. These negative outcomes also indicate that preparedness methodologies and needs assessment surveys for refugee situations require substantial revision to better anticipate and facilitate long-term developmental responses.

The refugee camp provides the most potent symbol of the failure of the emergency relief model. Perhaps the most significant weakness of present camp planning methodologies lies in their inability to appreciate that camps, although perceived as temporary solutions, inevitably become long-term, durable settlements. The Palestinian refugee camps in Gaza are the clearest example of the degrading consequences.

Emergency needs drive a methodology in which camps are planned and implemented according to crude engineering and social standards, with little regard to local technologies and cultural determinants. This is the antithesis of the planning cycle and is usually the outcome of the competing mandates of agencies and donors. Fundamental review is needed and better collaboration between UNHCR/UNCHS/UNDP would encourage this to take place. Potentially of great significance is the concept of informal settlement upgrading, again based on initiatives taken in many cities of the developing world over the last decade and a half. This experience of upgrading offers a valuable range of techniques and strategies — for example, infrastructure provision, progressive improvement of physical layout, enhancing social facilities, underpinned by appropriate community resources and managerial capacity — which would be novel in their application to refugee settlement planning. Certainly a progressive upgrading methodology would provide a much more sustainable solution to the settlement needs of refugees and the impact on host localities.

Emergency responses are never informed by regional- or national-scale planning considerations, thereby adding to the strains on the host country. But experience already cited confirms that the immediate impacts and developmental needs of refugees can only be effectively addressed within a regional/spatial framework. In this way refugee settlements can be located in a way which better integrates them into the overall investment strategies for the host country's infrastructure. At the same time, the engagement of refugees in the economy and the positive contributions they make to a host country economy — at least at an aggregate level — can really only be secured within a regional planning framework which integrates the needs of refugee with their hosts.

Only in Cyprus — with unusual conditions — have these aspirations achieved anything like their true potential. Elsewhere, the emergency, project-driven model of refugee assistance ensures that the continuum from relief to development remains a frustrated objective. □

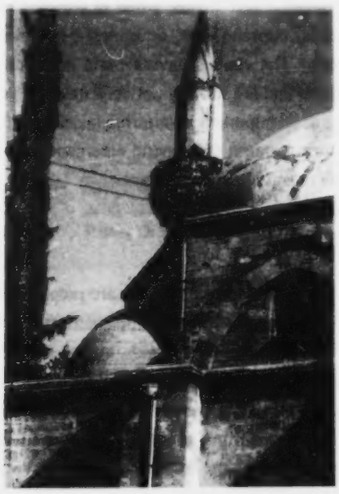

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Photo credit: Tahtakala *Housing Scheme in the Walled City splendidly fits the atmosphere of the Old Town; the Arab Ahmet Mosque is a historic monument. Nicosia Master Plan*

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT IN EMERGENCIES: THE TANZANIAN EXPERIENCE

by Krisno Nimpuno

Introduction

Armed conflicts and other disasters in 1994 caused some 50 million displaced people to search for safe havens. Over 20 million refugees sought protection in neighbouring countries, while 20 to 30 million were displaced within their own country. Such unprecedented numbers could not be accommodated with the measures established in earlier emergencies.

Refugee camps are built to offer temporary shelter only, but in recent emergencies due to the scope of the problems, only very rudimentary and temporary provisions were developed: basic infrastructure and scanty shelters of plastic covers over stick frames. Emergency shelter offers temporary relief, but before long, deteriorating environmental conditions start to take a heavy toll on health and life.

One critical factor is that the regular planning and building regulations for settlements are set aside. And while provisions are intended for very short periods of time, refugees may in reality have to stay for years in settlements that are difficult to upgrade. In the process, very few physical planners are involved in emergency settlement development.

There appears to be a strong case for shelter and settlement planning geared to sustainability. This does not imply that first provisions must be permanent, but that the upgrading lessons learned from low-income housing are applicable to resettlement and emergency shelter development. This is investment in planning rather than in actual construction.

Refugee Reception

The tremendous refugee problems in Africa have put a heavy burden on the host countries. In most regions of the world land supply is the most critical factor for the development of refugee settlements. But in many African cases, land for settlement and even land for agriculture has been made available. Malawi, Mozambique, Sudan and the United Republic of Tanzania have made land available for millions of refugees. We will look at the last case.

The Tanzanian Case

Refugees pass through several camps before being settled on a plot to stay for a longer time. Refugees in Tanzania are usually kept for some days at a reception centre in the border regions, and later shifted to regrouping sites; finally they may be relocated to settlement sites with agricultural potential.

1. Reception Centres

There are as many as 50 reception centres in western Tanzania where refugees are registered and given a first shelter, often in warehouses, schools, churches etc. or in self-built grass shacks. The centres have a rapid population turnover and are socially not very stable. They serve as an important monitoring instrument for the host country, and extend emergency relief to the most vulnerable refugees.

2. Regrouping Sites

Further inland, camp-sites are prepared by the Government. The regrouping sites facilitate the distribution of relief goods, but the sites and services are vulnerable to hostile cross-border incursions. They require land clearing, road building, installing a water supply, and the construction of large communal latrines, storage and administration buildings all of which should be ready before refugees arrive. The regrouping sites accommodate 1000 to 3000 families each, on 300 sq m plots. The plots are grouped in cells of 30 to 40 plots. Gardening plots are included in the scheme, but the refugees mainly survive on relief food.

3. Settlement Sites

When there are large numbers of refugees and their stay continues over a long period, different solutions are necessary. The competition between refugees and the local population for water, land, firewood, transport, supplies etc. may become a destabilizing factor. The Government therefore settles refugees ultimately on land where they can be productive and eventually self-sufficient. These are the so-called Agricultural-Based Settlement Sites.

Such sites offer possibilities for self-sufficiency and should each accommodate 10,000 people. Each household is allocated a plot of 2000 sq m for a dwelling and a garden plot within the settlement, while as much as one hectare of agricultural land outside the settlement is available per household. Such generosity is not known elsewhere.

It may take public works six months to prepare the basic infrastructure for these settlements. Water supply, for example, will often require borehole drilling and piping from springs and wells to standpipes for 500 persons or less.

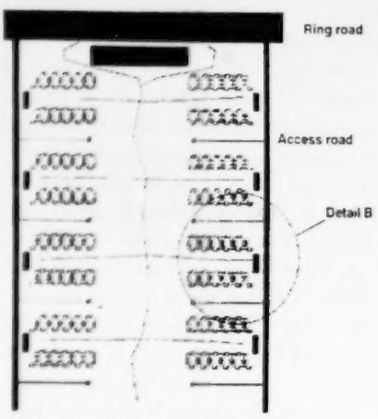
Site Selection for Emergency Settlements

Emergencies have a disagreeable tendency to come unannounced and then present planning problems of great urgency. In countries adequately prepared, stand-by settlement sites may be identified before emergencies erupt.

Site selection is in practice based on political considerations. Land and water availability are also well-understood selection criteria. What is less well understood is that construction considerations are also important.

Shelter Strategies

The two main costs of shelter itself are building materials and labour while design, manage-



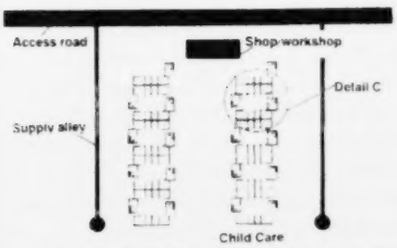
Sub-settlement for Kibondo Camp, with shelter compounds in clusters. (The author presents a master plan for a standby site for 15,000-20,000 people.)

The Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) Istanbul, Turkey, 3-14 June 1996

ment and training are minor costs. This argues for self-help strategies and the strengthening of local development capacities: the dwelling is built over several years with unpaid, self-help labour and local building materials to reduce costs. Efficient production methods must also be introduced, taught and monitored. The emphasis should be on assisted self-help, for emergency shelter cores, to be erected in several days, with incremental development into permanent basic housing.

Self-help Housing

Tool kits for agriculture and construction will be distributed to refugees, but will have to be shared, due to the large quantities necessary and limited relief funds. Each household is expected to construct its own house as well as latrines and washing facilities. Local materials must be used: timber harvested through the land



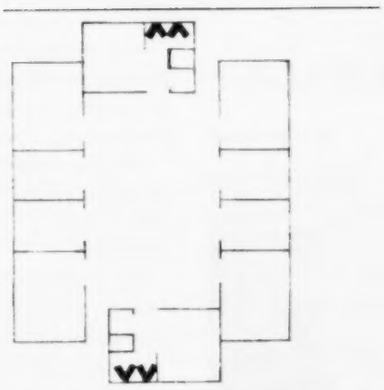
Detail B: The 10 housing compounds with 40 houses form a neighbourhood, grouped around a green area.

clearing, earth from the settlement area itself, stones and grass. The dwellers will develop drainage systems and organize waste disposal. Tree planting will be encouraged, to maintain the forest and to produce construction material.

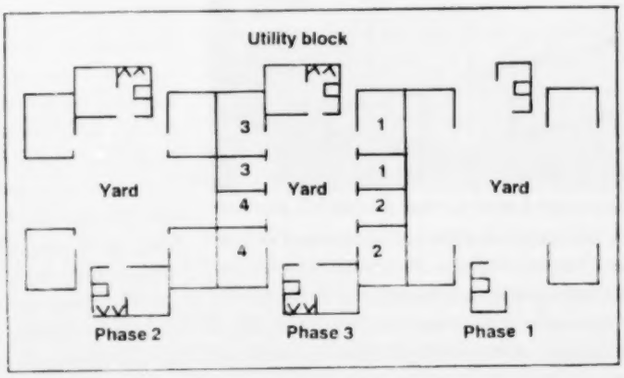
Site Planning

In current Tanzanian refugee settlements, house plots of 15 by 20 meters are demarcated with a single core structure placed in the middle. Sheds for cooking, bathing and latrines are positioned at the edges of the plots. At present, open plots are allocated without arrangements to prevent encroachment or trespassing. Defensible space is difficult to achieve on such individual open plots. By forming compounds between strategically placed housing cores, land-use control could be achieved. Well-designed compounds promote the sharing of resources and services for child care, washing and toilet facilities.

If larger collective compounds are used, conditions improve dramatically. By locating



Detail C: The shelter develops in a two-room unit, with four households sharing two wet units.



shelters on the corners of plots, a defensible space is created, offering good options for incremental development.

Phased Infrastructure

Environmental health issues are of critical importance in emergency settlements; they are neglected only at the risk of serious impairment of the health and life of the victims. The role of community participation in infrastructure construction and maintenance is increasingly recognized.

The infrastructure of refugee settlements requires:

- *a developmental approach with gradual improvement of facilities and capacities;*
- *appropriate technologies that are safe, acceptable to the refugees, low-cost and simple to maintain;*
- *systems that can absorb sharp increases of population.*

Raw water supply, treatment and distribution is a central issue. Water supply systems can be developed incrementally from mobile supply systems to central communal supply systems with hand pumps and standpipes and, finally, to piped supplies to plots and dwellings.

Sanitation technologies can develop incrementally from bucket latrines, trench and pit latrine systems to ventilated pits, double-vault systems, pour-flush systems and septic tanks.

Incremental Shelter: Core and Shell Housing

Incremental housing development is a well-established development method, whereby, starting with minimal shelter provisions, the dwelling can in the course of years improve and expand. It is necessary to design the dwelling fully, before the first element is erected, so that the plot and the surrounding neighbourhood can accommodate the final phase.

Conclusions:

Emergency settlement planning presents itself as a challenge that can no longer be ignored. Since many refugees need shelter for years rather than months, emergency settlements should be designed to have the option to remain temporary settlements as well as the option to develop into durable urban entities, to serve the host country after the departure of the refugees.

Preparedness for emergency settlement gives the best results when it concentrates on planning, rather than on stockpiling of goods. The challenge to planners is to work within local rules for urban and housing development to facilitate eventual permanence. Key elements are environmentally sustainable development, low-energy materials, local technologies, incremental development and community-based housing.□

Krisno Nimpuno, Disaster and Emergency Reference Centre, Delft, served as Executive Chairman of the International Workshop on the Continuum held in Nairobi in April 1994 and described under books noted p. 26.

RE-INCORPORATING REFUGEES IN GUATEMALA

by Jorge Gavidia

Cooperation after natural disaster in Guatemala. Can it happen again? Photo credit: Ignacio Armillas

Guatemala returned to a democratically-elected government in 1986. The establishment of civilian rule permitted the initiation of a process of national reconciliation under the sponsorship of the United Nations, aiming at the repatriation and reintegration into the society of approximately 80,000 members of indigenous communities who sought refuge, primarily in Mexico, during the eighties, to escape military rule.

A process of return has already begun, guided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and supported by a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Most returnees are currently sheltered in transit camps run by the United Nations awaiting the resolution of negotiations between individual returnee communities and the Government on the choice of relocation sites.

The Government and external support agencies have recognized that programmes for the resettlement of returnee communities should aim to:

- regularize land tenure to guarantee security of permanence to the returnee families;
- provide basic infrastructure and services to support productive and social activities, and
- provide technical and financial assistance to trigger a process of sustainable economic development.

UNCHS (Habitat), with the support of the Government of Switzerland and in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Guatemala through its National Commission for Assistance to Refugees, Displaced and Repatriated (CEAR), has started a project to assist in the resettlement and development of returnee communities in two districts of the country, El Quiche and Alta Verapaz.

The project should run for two years. In the first twelve months, it is estimated that about 5200 families of returnees and 2800 families of the internally displaced will be resettled from current transit camps run by UNHCR. The project will also assist in identifying new sites for further groups of returnees and the displaced, and in the negotiations for the allocation of land in order to guarantee the speedy reception of new inflows of returnees and minimize transit time in camps.

The programme of activities for the second year will be based on the volume and geographical destination of further returnees, the volume of which is expected to increase if the resettlement process proceeds satisfactorily.

The project activities include shelter and settlements development through community participation and self-help, delivery of basic infrastructure and services, and the setting up of productive activities.

A major area of concern of the project is integrating the returnee communities within the surrounding society. To this effect, primary local partners will be the municipal authorities of the districts under whose jurisdiction the responsibility for the resettled communities falls. Capacity building for staff of local authorities as well as community leaders on settlements development and maintenance of services, on environmental conservation, and on civic obligations and responsibility will be carried out on a sustained basis. Given the key role played by women in the refugee families and communities, the project is focusing a significant part of its training activities on them.

Despite the on-going process of national reconciliation, programmes aimed at supporting the resettlement of the displaced population face the challenge of rebuilding their confidence in the role of the institutions, while ensuring protection for the returnees against the threat of violence, abuse and disruption of the resettlement process. In this respect, UNCHS (Habitat) is presently considering the modalities for an agreement to be defined with Human Rights Watch to ensure the posting of human rights monitors in the settlements in support of the project activities.

Another concern of the project is to ensure that its activities are properly coordinated with those of other on-going programmes executed by the government and external support agencies to assist the returnee communities. To this effect, the project is integrated in a national committee comprising all institutions supporting returnees and whose principal task is to ensure an integrated strategy of assistance to the communities.

It is envisaged that the experience gained in the execution of the project and the assessment of other refugee support activities in the country, will assist in the formulation of a proposal for a National Programme for the Resettlement of the Displaced Population, which can guide the intervention of national and international organizations in this area.

Rebuilding the social and economic fabric of returnee communities cannot simply be achieved by providing shelter and means of livelihood. It is also necessary to rebuild their belief in a future for their community, in their capacity to develop, and in their sense of belonging to a national society with which they share common goals of social equity and economic prosperity. By achieving these goals with the communities to be resettled in El Quiche and Alta Verapaz, the project hopes to show a reconciliation and development path to be followed by other returnee communities and Guatemala as a whole.□

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Sleeping with the Enemy: Experiences of a UNCHS Staff Member

by Marieke van Geldermalsen

In August 1994 I met a European nurse in Bujumbura on her way to Goma and I wondered: "Among all the refugees in the area, are there no nurses who could give better care than a foreigner who doesn't speak the language of her patients?" In January 1995 I met a Rwandese engineer in Nairobi looking for work. He had just arrived from the same camp in Goma together with his wife, a lawyer, and I wondered "Was there no work in that camp for lawyers and engineers?" At a camp for displaced persons in Burundi in November 1993, a helicopter with relief goods knocked down a newly-built latrine that stood on the only place in the camp where a helicopter could land.

And so I ask: why this lack of planning, coordination, consultation and participation of the concerned population? Terribly scarce resources are being wasted in emergency situations, especially in the first days of a crisis when the needs are greatest.

It's easy to criticize. But how can one criticize the medical teams that arrive so quickly at a disaster site because they do not have as holistic an approach as a planner might have or do not spend time on coordination and sharing of information? They work and work and work till total exhaustion in the hope that something might be accomplished, whether or not it is significant. It is easy for them to fail to see that maybe a few miles away the needs are even greater, and difficult for them to recognize that medical staff might be among the victims they are treating. NGOs may react quickly to a disaster, but they are limited in their actions, as they have only so much money to spend which is directed to one certain sector. United Nations organizations can operate on a much wider base, but before the international bureaucratic procedures have given them the green light, weeks if not months have passed.

How can an immediate response be assured, coordinated and focused, especially through the best use of existing (human) resources? A response based on a good information system would avoid a situation where only the loudest receive attention. During most disasters such a system is in place only after too much valuable time has been lost, if it ever is in place at all.

Like it or not, I can come up with only one type of organization capable of both an immediate and coordinated approach in all relevant sectors (information, shelter, food, medical care, water, sanitation, security). It is the organization which has, in the past, specialized in organizing disasters – the military. Maybe those working for development should demand not only that military budgets should be transferred to them, but military expertise as well. Am I hallucinating when I think of armies in a changing world that would alter their mandate to work in the service of the people? Somalia and Rwanda are but two examples of the increasing number of cases where development efforts have become essentially futile during a human-made disaster. It sounds insane to suggest that the military should be made responsible for the immediate response to such disaster situations, but in so many countries, especially poor ones, the military consistently receives disproportionate amounts of resources and education. We cannot afford to let that go to waste. Can we afford to do the job without them? □

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LINKING RELIEF TO DEVELOPMENT: HUMAN SETTLEMENT STRATEGIES FOR WAR-TORN SOCIETIES

by Rainer Nordberg

The recent humanitarian emergencies in Africa and elsewhere have raised criticism and forced the international community to question the validity of past solutions. The criticism has highlighted, inter alia, the lack of preparedness and planning; the lack of appropriate infrastructure; lack of participation of beneficiaries in the implementation of assistance programmes; lack of coordination between different agencies; and lack of a development perspective.

Since the shelter and human settlements sector is more "developmental" than any other component in emergency assistance, shelter and settlement policies could provide the bridge for linking relief to development. Based on lessons learnt from Habitat's pre-disaster and post-disaster projects and programmes, the following 13 points have been formulated to link relief to sustainable development.

1. Permanent Reconstruction Instead of Temporary Shelter

Although people are often refugees for a long time, shelter provision and settlement planning for refugees, returnees and displaced persons has been short-term and pragmatic. Living in "temporary" emergency shelters and waiting for assistance from government or humanitarian agencies has in many cases led to the long-term dependency of people on governments, and government dependency on external aid for re-housing and reconstruction.

"Self-build" is the most suitable approach to incorporate long-term development within short-term relief. Programmes can be devised to produce building materials on-site using locally-available and environmentally-sound materials which can be used first for emergency shelter and then reincorporated into a permanent house. Such approaches are frequently more economical than providing tents or other forms of emergency shelter that can only be used for a short period of time, and which are expensive to procure and transport to the affected areas.

2. Training for Repatriation and Resettlement

Prolonged wars have often denied entire generations of young people access to proper education and training. The failure of governments to train these youths in new income-generating skills has been cited as one of the major causes of high crime rates and political instability in former conflict zones. Thus training should be an essential element in strategies linking relief to development. It should start in exile, where the refugees can learn skills that would facilitate their reintegration into their own country: recycling, composting, woodless construction, waterless sanitation, backyard farming, soil conservation, forestry, environmental health, de-mining, peaceful problem-solving etc.

3. Resolving the Land Question: A Prerequisite for Peace

Even though the immediate reason for displacements of populations is often civil war, overpopulation linked to land degradation and the scarcity of arable land is often a prime factor for sustained unrest. In many countries affected by civil strife, the whole system of land tenure has broken down. This can trigger new conflicts and dissuade farmers from resuming production and displaced populations from returning home. Establishment of a sound land-management system in urban as well as in rural areas is therefore of crucial importance for successful repatriation programmes and for maintaining peace and stability. As war-torn societies have a disproportionate number of widows and women-headed households, particular attention should be paid to facilitate women's access to land.

4. Community Involvement

Prolonged wars have often separated ethnic groups that previously used to live and work together in closely-knit human settlements. Rehabilitation and reconstruction of houses, community facilities and infrastructure can bring the opposing groups together, reduce conflict and help lay the groundwork for reconciliation. However, considering the deep mistrust among rival groups after prolonged wars, community participation is not a spontaneous, automatic process. It requires initiative, management, technical capacities and coordination between the communities and the authorities at the central and local levels. Programme support networks are needed to facilitate dialogue between different population groups, to assist communities in organizing themselves along multi-ethnic lines, and to train them in conflict resolution, peaceful problem-solving and community development.

5. Construction Sector: The Key to Economic Recovery

Wars and civil strife induce mass unemployment. Without opportunities for employment, refugees will not return. Expansion of employment is therefore a core issue to be addressed. As the economy is badly weakened in the aftermath of wars, employment cannot be created in the capital-intensive sectors. Yet shelter construction, infrastructure and environmental upgrading can provide labour-intensive employment on a large scale for small capital investments. Given the importance of the construction sector in economic recovery, there is a need to support the construction industry: providing training and credit facilities for returning men and women, and eliminating regulatory constraints which discourage the development of the small-scale sector.

6. Shelter: A Tool of Development Policy

Shelter enables mental and physical rehabilitation, family reunification and the development of community networks for protection and security. It is also important as a workplace. The link between housing and employment in the informal sector is both close and symbiotic: economic activities foster housing improvements and the latter increase employment prospects and productivity, with numerous forward and backward linkages to other sectors of the economy. The fact that investments in housing are recognized as capable of generating income has an important implication for repatriation and resettlement policies. Housing is not only a goal of resettlement policies, but even more important: it is a tool of development policy.

7. Focus on Women and Youth

It is important to recognize that refugees' and returnees' experiences are not isolated from similar categories of other disadvantaged groups. Therefore, repatriation and reintegration

programmes should be based on needs-based approaches focusing on the most vulnerable. Women and children constitute the majority of the refugees and displaced persons. They are also the most vulnerable because the traditional support systems — the family and the community network — have broken down due to the displacement. However, even when women are forced to flee their homes they continue their traditional responsibilities as household managers. Thus they must play a key role in repatriation programmes, enhancing the economic independence of refugees, returnees and displaced persons. Women and youth groups should be included in reconstruction and resettlement projects on an equal basis with men, while still giving special attention to their particular needs.

8. Sound Environmental Management

Prolonged wars cause desertification, soil erosion and water pollution. Rising demands for building materials related to the influx of refugees, returnees and displaced persons cause serious environmental damage as forests and plantations are cut, beaches and river banks exploited, quarries opened and agricultural land devoured. As environmental degradation is the root of many displacements, environmental rehabilitation is an essential step toward sustainable economic development after such conflicts. The success of refugee repatriation and resettlement operations often depends on the extent to which environmental concerns such as the availability of water, arable land, energy and building materials have been considered.

9. Physical Planning: A Tool for Conflict Solving and Sustainable Resource Management

Environmental degradation coupled with overpopulation and competition for resources have often been cited as root causes of disasters. Much war and civil strife can be attributed to land and resource disputes, while sustained peace after conflicts depends on equitable distribution of these resources. Because physical planning focusses on the distribution and use of resources and space, the physical planning process provides an important tool for conflict resolution and reconciliation through mediation, democratic participation and decision-making. This fact underlines the important role played by physical planners as informal mediators in conflicts over the provision of land and services.

In the context of reconstruction and resettlement, the benefits of physical planning include making best use of investment in physical and social infrastructure and ensuring a distribution of settlements that is compatible with resources. In overpopulated countries, physical planners can identify underutilized land and unexploited resources, and direct investments in infrastructure towards these regions in order to attract populations from overpopulated areas. Thus physical planning offers a framework for sustainable resource management and coordination of developmentally-oriented integrated strategies from relief to development.

10. Information Dissemination

Dissemination of research and information on emergency prevention has been very limited. This has led to a revolving-door situation whereby disasters that could be avoided re-occur because the same mistakes are repeated. To avoid this, the efficiency and impact of emergency prevention and relief activities should be systematically evaluated and widely disseminated. Dissemination of experience, evaluations, technologies and policy initiatives would assist governments, NGOs and the international community in developing appropriate policy responses and interventions in future crises.

11. Developing Databases for Preparedness and Pre-disaster Planning

Refugees, returnees and displaced persons are often located in areas on which there is little geological, hydrological and topographical information. This has resulted in many problems, such as high infrastructure costs, environmental destruction and the spread of epidemics, as in recent refugee crises in Africa. One of the prerequisites for pre-disaster planning and preparedness is a detailed knowledge of the zones likely to be affected by influxes of immigrants.

There is therefore a need to carry out resource inventories in conflict-prone zones. The data needed include topographical capacities, the availability of energy and local building materials, existing infrastructure, local building technologies and contracting capacity, and the local housing market.

12. Use of Local Materials and Technologies

The lack of affordable building materials constrains the implementation of repatriation and resettlement programmes. A common approach in past resettlement operations has been to provide imported building materials or prefabricated structures. Although imported structures such as tents are sometimes necessary in emergency situations, importing building materials for repatriation and resettlement programmes has many disadvantages. It results in high transport costs, impedes the countries' own construction industry, increases unemployment and dependency on aid. Most countries have the basic raw materials to produce building materials. Thus assistance should be provided to develop local capacity in building materials production. This would develop self-reliance, increase employment opportunities and build the foundations for sustainable development.

13. Food-for-work or Bricks-for-work Instead of Hand-outs

While social subsidies in the form of emergency food aid are needed in the emergency phase of a crisis, after that food-for-work projects can be successfully used in rehabilitation and recovery. Motivated by such incentives, refugees can be encouraged to produce building materials for shelter, improve infrastructure and rehabilitate the environment damaged by past uncontrolled influxes.

In cases of adequate food security, bricks-for-work could also be successfully used to construct infrastructure, community services and shelter for the disabled. As remuneration for their work on the construction site, participants could be given a certain number of bricks that they could use to improve their own shelter. □

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IRAQ: HOW TO DEAL WITH THE EFFECTS OF THE GULF WAR

By Jorge Gavidia

The Real Damage

Most of the damage caused by the Gulf War in 1991 can no longer be seen readily. Although many people were rendered homeless as a result of the conflicts and displacement of population experienced in northern and southern Iraq after the war, the direct destruction of dwellings was minor when compared to similar events. The real damage was done to the support systems — infrastructure and services — that keep the country functioning and affect every aspect of people's life.

The breakdown in the delivery of social and infrastructure services (water supply, health, basic sanitation and solid waste disposal) in the aftermath of the Gulf War and the ensuing United Nations sanctions has reached dramatic levels throughout Iraq. The industrial sector and infrastructure for agriculture have also been badly hit. Direct destruction of plants and facilities during the war has been compounded by the gradual deterioration of the remaining installations due to the sanctions imposed thereafter.

The effects are everywhere to be seen: an increase in child mortality and malnutrition, the spread of communicable diseases and pests (the cases of typhoid fever jumped from 1800 in 1989 to 23,000 in 1993), plummeting of real income, environmental degradation, the breakdown of the economy, and the bewilderment of people who a few years ago enjoyed one of the highest per capita incomes in the developing world and now are reduced to a salary of less than $US10 per month.

Beyond Sanctions

It is evident that in Iraq, with or without sanctions, things will never again be as they were in the past: more than adequate oil revenues, a State that could indiscriminately subsidize services, the capacity to buy foreign technology at will, the availability of foreign expertise and labour to run essential services, the knowledge that the State would provide and maintain basic services and, therefore, the absence of an individual sense of responsibility for the proper use of or fair payment for those services.

But most important, only a few are able to see that the very conditions existing in the past made Iraq and its people so vulnerable to the war and the resulting sanctions.

Reconstructing Iraq, achieving a real and enduring rehabilitation of its social and economic conditions, goes beyond dealing with the effects of the war under sanction conditions. The challenge is to chart a course of sustainable social and economic development for the country that can mitigate the effects of human-made disasters such as the Gulf War. Rehabilitation is only one step in this strategy, and if rehabilitation means returning to the past, it may be a false step.

Rehabilitation for Sustainable Development

The persistence of the sanctions leaves little room for manoeuvre in the design of post-war rehabilitation activities. However, a recent joint UNEP/UNCHS mission found that, even with existing constraints, rehabilitation activities can be performed by applying a strategy that promotes developing and making more effective use of local capacities and resources. It is not a mere coincidence that the main elements of such strategy also provide the basis for achieving a less vulnerable and more sustainable pattern of economic and social development.

Two Examples

Technological reconversion

There are over 1500 water treatment plants in Iraq. Nearly 1300 of them are compact plants that serve rural and small urban settlements. Compact plants, while relatively easy to operate, represent technological packages whose operation and maintenance has a high degree of dependency on imported parts and components which are tied to a limited number of suppliers. The interruption or restriction of the flow of technological components, as in the present case, creates havoc in the system and disrupts services.

A dual strategy is proposed to face this problem: (1) emergency measures that maintain the present levels (reduced but still adequate) of water production, with improved operation and maintenance, coupled with (2) a programme for the gradual reconversion of the plants to systems for which the local capacity to supply components is in place or can be easily created.

Human resources and the private sector

Solid waste and wastewater collection and disposal services in Baghdad are provided by public-sector agencies. The economic crisis created by the sanctions and restrictions in public-sector management have led to a sharp decline of wages for the workers in these services. The solid waste collection service has lost 98 per cent of its labourers. Wastewater treatment plants have less than half of the technicians required to run them efficiently.

To cope with this situation, commercial establishments are increasingly relying on private-sector contractors to dispose of their solid waste. Private contractors are not constrained by public-sector salary scales. Thus, they are able to recruit personnel for this task. A similar practice could be extended to the rest of the population and to the operation of sewerage facilities through a properly regulated system. Better services, accompanied by a campaign to increase awareness of the need to pay for them, would gradually lead to efficient and financially sustainable waste management systems.

What next? Dealing with the rehabilitation of social and economic conditions after the war offers a unique opportunity to rethink past practices in development management as well as in the provision of infrastructure and services. Rehabilitation measures have by necessity to be based mainly on the efficient use and development of local capacities. These same measures, once the sanctions are lifted, will permit Iraq to take the path to achieve sustainable development. In the long term, the sanctions may prove a blessing in disguise. □

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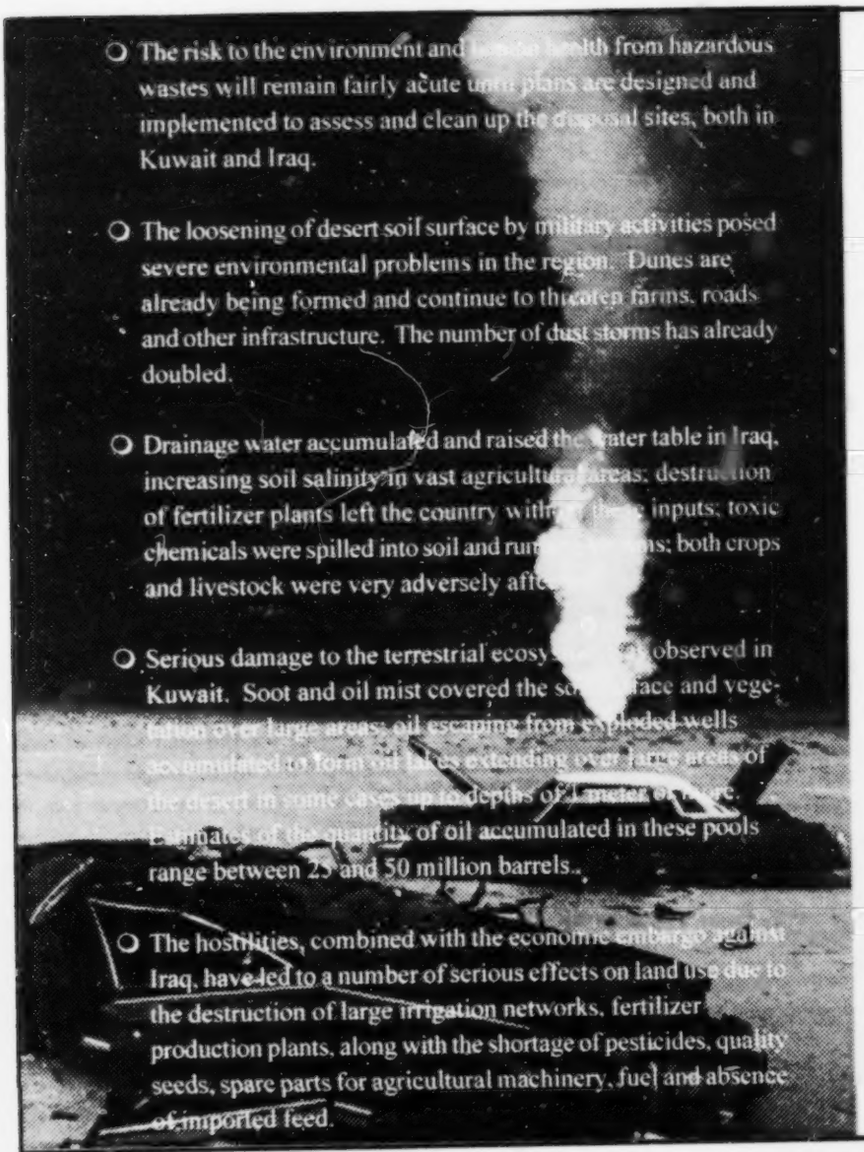
IMPACTS OF THE IRAQ-KUWAIT CONFLICT ON THE TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

by A. Ayoub



- The risk to the environment and human health from hazardous wastes will remain fairly acute until plans are designed and implemented to assess and clean up the disposal sites, both in Kuwait and Iraq.
- The loosening of desert soil surface by military activities posed severe environmental problems in the region. Dunes are already being formed and continue to threaten farms, roads and other infrastructure. The number of dust storms has already doubled.
- Drainage water accumulated and raised the water table in Iraq, increasing soil salinity in vast agricultural areas; destruction of fertilizer plants left the country without these inputs; toxic chemicals were spilled into soil and run[illegible]ns; both crops and livestock were very adversely affe[illegible]
- Serious damage to the terrestrial ecosy[illegible] observed in Kuwait. Soot and oil mist covered the so[illegible]face and vegetation over large areas; oil escaping from exploded wells accumulated to form oil lakes extending over large areas of the desert in some cases up to depths of 1 meter or more. Estimates of the quantity of oil accumulated in these pools range between 25 and 50 million barrels.
- The hostilities, combined with the economic embargo against Iraq, have led to a number of serious effects on land use due to the destruction of large irrigation networks, fertilizer production plants, along with the shortage of pesticides, quality seeds, spare parts for agricultural machinery, fuel and absence of imported feed.

Photo credit: Jan De Wet, UNEP/SELECT

Rehabilitation

The rehabilitation and protection of the fragile environment in the region requires a strategy characterized by regional cooperation, simplicity and attraction to the public. The strategy also should be easy to execute and maintain, and it should have built-in monitoring mechanisms. Several countries in the Regional Organization for Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) region have been hit hard during and after the war. Thus a regional approach must be followed. The framework of such a rehabilitation plan should take into consideration that: (1) extensive damage befell both sides of the conflict; (2) a successful rehabilitation programme should include the countries from both sides of the conflict; (3) the organizational structure needed in the region already exists in the form of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for Environment; and (4) the countries in the region possess most of the potential capabilities required for success. □

Sources: "A Rapid Assessment of the Impacts of the Iraq-Kuwait Conflict on Terrestrial Ecosystems. Part I: Iraq, Part II: Kuwait, Part III: Saudi Arabia" (1991).

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Mitigation

The UN Inter-Agency Plan of Action proposed mitigation measures for urgent action. These included (i) immediate removal of mines and unexploded ordinance, (ii) initiation of a long-term programme to monitor, assess and neutralize the effects of pollutants and toxic agents, (iii) removal of litter, and (iv) restoration of essential services e.g. water treatment as an urgent need and repair of construction of structures required for that purpose.

AFGHANISTAN: RELIEF TO REHABILITATION AT WORK

by Henk Verbeek

While part of the country is still engaged in a life-long war with ever-changing front lines and dominant factions, in other parts of the country civilians are slowly returning to the remains of their homes and are quietly trying to build up their lives again, assisted therein by UNCHS (Habitat).

Since 1989, UNCHS has been active in supporting the rehabilitation of war-affected communities in Afghanistan. The main objective has been to support resettlement by assisting in the process of reconstruction and improving living conditions. A number of approaches have been developed and implemented to facilitate the process adapted to suit local circumstances. The common denominator has been a community-based approach, both in the development stage of local projects, as well as in the implementing phase. An additional, but very important, benefit of this approach has been that it enhances community support for peace and development, thereby contributing to the process of stabilization.

Originally rural-based, the "Housing for Resettlement" programme of UNCHS has been working in 12 provinces in Afghanistan and has provided material assistance to more than 100 community-built projects of varied size. Using traditional local shuras (councils) as the principal agents of community involvement; the scope of the projects has been wide, following the priorities of the communities.

Generally, the two main concerns were the reconstruction of houses and community buildings, and the improvement of the water supply. In order to assist the communities, an enabling-strategy was followed. Small-scale production units for essential building materials were set up, which, on the basis of a revolving fund system, provided employment as well as subsidized, affordable good-quality building materials. With regard to the water supply, a cheap, easy-to-maintain, hand pump was developed, spare parts for which can be locally produced. The local communities are thoroughly trained in the installation, maintenance and the public health education aspects of these pumps.

As of 1995 the main focus of the UNCHS assistance has been the urban areas. Within the "Urban Rehabilitation" programme, immediate relief and repair through community involvement will gradually expand to encompass institutional strengthening, rehabilitation and development of the three principal urban regions of Kabul, Mazar-i-sharif and Herat.

Whereas the immediate objectives of a relief-to-development programme demand quick-impact results, it has been the increasing concern of the participants in the programme to ensure that the results of their work last over a longer time span. Therefore it has been recognized as of paramount importance to involve the beneficiary communities in all aspects of the projects.

This, of course, is difficult to realize in the immediate relief phase. More than 20,000 families in Kabul have been provided with temporary shelter material. However, even here attempts have been made to involve local community organizations to the maximum extent in distributing these shelter materials.

Boy carrying home a melon in Samagan, Afghanistan. As water is restored to de-populated villages in the area, cultivation of its traditionally renowned fruit has begun again. From a card produced in aid of the Tony Bullard Trust, a charitable trust set up by friends of a UNCHS worker killed in Afghanistan in 1993.

Even under the extremely difficult circumstances in Kabul, it has been possible to organize communities to improve their immediate living environment. Recently municipal workers and community volunteers were involved in a massive exercise to clear the streets of rubble and debris in the eastern suburbs. The collected rubble was used to fill two huge craters at the ancient Bala Hissar fortress, created by two 500-kilogramme aerial bombs dropped during the factional fighting. Similarly, a food-for-work approach has been used to involve communities in the clearance of large quantities of solid waste in Kabul.

Within the context of short-term relief, the fastest way to reach people is by restoring existing distribution networks. This also offers prospects for a more sustainable approach to the relief work. Especially in the area of water supply it has been possible to encourage social development (in terms of skills development and income generation) by promoting the role of local communities in the planning, management and maintenance of the water supply system. At the same time, careful attention has been paid to include the municipal water service in this process, as municipal strengthening is an equally important objective.

Thus the "Urban Rehabilitation" project uses a two-pronged approach, working through two parallel, mutually reinforcing programmes. The Neighbourhood Action Programme is working directly with and through the local communities, with special focus on water and sanitation, access improvement (roads, protection from flooding, etc.) and production of building materials. Neighbourhood Funds are being set up which will provide the financial basis of small subcontracts with neighbourhood organizations in the above-mentioned areas. One step up, the Municipal Strengthening Programme is aimed at capacity building on the municipal level in the areas of urban infrastructure management, solid waste disposal and planning support.

In this way, a framework has been set up within which both institutional and community resources are being mobilized to support the urban rehabilitation process. The urban Afghan people have shown an enormous resilience to the harsh conditions of a country under siege. They have demonstrated an exceptional capacity to adapt and survive under the extremities of war. Tapping these human resources through community empowerment and supplementing community initiatives with improved municipal management systems, should lead to a sustainable urban rehabilitation programme, which will evolve from relief to development.□

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Photo credits: Peter Swan

Formats: Betacam SP, U-Matic
Hi-Band or Low-Band, VHS

System: PAL - Duration 13 minutes, 30 seconds

After three years of conflict in the city, many of the surviving residents of Kabul live in desperate conditions. The physical and social impact of the fighting has been devastating. Of the one million inhabitants currently estimated to be in the city, at least two thirds have been displaced from their homes and forced to flee the city or seek temporary shelter in public buildings, in rented accommodation or with relatives. Population densities in the "safer" districts have doubled over the past year, as the displaced moved from areas directly affected by fighting. Even as some southern and eastern districts become accessible again, few families will be able to move back to their homes without some investment in repairs to the damaged infrastructure. An additional 400,000 people would, if the city remains calm, return from outlying areas, from other urban centres or from Pakistan. Those agencies that have actively assisted communities in the city throughout the conflict are increasingly aware of the challenge posed by the "peace" emergency.

A Reason to Return explores the community-based approaches being adopted by a number of agencies within and outside the UN system, including the programmes of UNCHS (Habitat) in assisting people to rehabilitate their homes and neighbourhoods in Kabul. It makes a strong appeal to the world community to remember the people of Afghanistan's needs - not just for emergency relief but for assistance in longer-term rehabilitation and reconstruction.

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PERSPECTIVES ON DISASTERS AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

by Ignacio Armillas

A. Nature of Disasters

The face of the earth is constantly being reshaped by natural forces and by humankind: Processes to which all countries are subject and which provoke loss of life and property and have a deleterious effect on social and economic development.

Disasters are so frequent that it would be tedious to list even the major natural and technological disasters that have occurred only in modern times, and quite possibly impossible to even estimate the loss of life and property caused by these events.

For example, there have been at least 1100 lethal earthquakes in the first 90 years of this century[1]. The combined loss of life due to these disasters, as reported by the various sources at the time of the event, adds up to over 1.5 million people. The most lethal single natural disaster of modern times was the Tangshan (China) earthquake of 1976, which resulted in almost a quarter of a million deaths.

Other types of natural disasters do not generally result in as a high number of deaths, but they can affect large populations. The 1988 floods in India killed under 5000 people but affected 50 million. Drought can also ravage vast areas. For example, the Sri Lanka drought of 1970 affected over 200,000 families, as did the drought of 1981.

All told, millions of people are affected by natural disasters every year, and at least 250,000 die on average as a direct result. A disproportionate number of victims live in developing countries. In fact, the World Bank estimates, based on UNDRO's data, that 95 per cent of disaster-related deaths occur among the 66 per cent of the world's population that live in the poorer countries.[2]

Technological disasters, wars and other human-made disasters also cause vast loss of life and property and have a major impact on the environment. Bophal and Chernobyl are but two of the most dramatic technological disasters of recent years. In addition, the consequences of such human-made disasters will be felt for decades to come.

Devastation in the Philippines, 1990, yet the market survives. Photo credit: I. Armillas

The same is the case for "slow-onset" human-made disasters such as desertification, depletion of marine resources, and air pollution. There are no global statistics of deaths occurring every year directly attributable to the poor quality of the air, or the long-term effects on children of the high levels of lead in the air. The total consequences of desertification around the world are also hard to quantify, although famine claims an increasing number of victims each decade.

While the loss of life and injury are the most tragic and intolerable consequences of disasters, their social, economic and environmental consequences.

Direct economic losses inflicted by major disasters can be quantified. Generally the disasters causing the larger economic losses are those which happen in developed countries, but the impact of a disaster is proportionally greater in poorer countries. For example, the Loma Prieta earthquake of 1989 in the USA resulted in total losses of $US 8.0 billion, but this represented only 0.2 per cent of the total GNP for the USA during that year. By contrast, the Managua (Nicaragua) earthquake of 1972 caused losses equivalent to 40 per cent of Nicaragua's GNP for that year and the Montenegro (Yugoslavia) earthquake of 1979 caused losses equivalent to 10 per cent of Yugoslavia's GNP.

While direct economic losses may be comparatively lower in developing countries because of lower investment in the physical environment and lower replacement costs, the higher costs in terms of the national capacity to absorb the loss make the poorer countries more vulnerable. On average the losses as percentage of GNP are 20 times greater in developing than in developed countries.[3]

An example of the economic impact of disasters is the Luzon (Philippines) Earthquake of 1990. Although the immediate physical damage was limited to north-central Luzon, the earthquake placed an additional heavy burden on a country already struggling with major economic problems. The National Economic Development Agency (NEDA) estimated that it caused a reduction in GNP growth of nearly one third from the pre-earthquake forecast. Also attributable to the disaster was an increase of several points in the inflation index and a decline

in the balance of payments.[4] People who hardly felt the seismic movements did feel their standard of living decline a bit further as prices for food and other goods increased, as did unemployment.

Less apparent than the economic consequences but of greater importance to the stability of a country, are the **social consequences** engendered by disasters. We can quantify some of the immediate consequences such as people left homeless. The Luzon earthquake left 120,000 people homeless. In the 1980s almost one million houses were destroyed by storms or floods in Viet Nam, while over three million suffered some degree of damage from the same sources. The loss of a house, even when none of the occupants has suffered death or injury, represents a whole set of social problems. The loss of other physical structures, such as schools and hospitals, can also serve as a partial indicator of the impact of a disaster on the social fabric of a nation. In the 1985 Mexico City Earthquake 25 per cent of the existing hospital capacity in the city was lost, and almost 30 per cent of school rooms were destroyed. The central telephone exchange collapsed, leaving the city almost without telecommunications to the outside world during the critical emergency phase.[5]

The true impact of disasters on society is rather intangible. Here too the poor suffer disproportionately, for they depend more on family and extended kin relations to provide networks of mutual assistance and support in times of hardship. Disasters tend to strain such networks. This, exacerbated by economic hardships, often creates a second set of disaster victims — those who survived the event physically unharmed but are nonetheless affected by the consequences.

How, through better development and management of human settlements, can we contribute to mitigating the effects of such events? How can we orient reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts into development-oriented recovery?

B. Human Settlements and Disasters

As stated earlier, events are considered disasters in relation to the magnitude of their impact on the social and economic fabric of the society. Human settlements are concentrations of social and economic activities and of the physical structures and networks associated with them. Thus, extreme events that affect human settlements are more likely to be considered disasters, as the magnitude of their impact on the society will be greater.

Shortly after the turn of the twenty-first century, a majority of the world's population and most of its productive and economic activities will be located in urban agglomerations. Society is already, by-and-large urban, its culture as well as its social institutions emanate from or are based in cities. Societies are thus becoming increasingly susceptible to catastrophic events as concentrations of population, infrastructure, economic and social assets increase in size and density, and also in number. Moreover, human settlements form urban systems. Thus, if part of the system is affected by a disaster, the effects are likely to be felt well beyond the area of primary impact. The world-wide economic repercussions of the recent Kobe earthquake is a very good illustration of this phenomenon.

Paradoxically, while human settlements are particularly vulnerable because of their intrinsic nature, they also tend to develop and grow in hazardous areas. Moreover, once a settlement becomes successful, it will continue to grow and thrive notwithstanding natural hazards. In fact, few settlements are not at some risk from natural and human-made hazards.

Yet human settlements are not entirely helpless before the forces of nature or technological mishaps. Mitigation of the consequences of these events is possible to varying degrees. For example, the storm that lashed the coastal area of Andhra Pradesh (India) in 1990 was the most intense to hit the country this century. However, pre-disaster planning, based primarily on the lessons of the 1977 cyclone that killed an estimated 10,000 people, kept the death toll to under 1000, although the 1990 storm wreaked destruction in excess of that caused by the previous one.

Even though each disaster is quite unique in nature, scope and timing, the problems created are basically similar, thus, quite predictable. Knowledge of the profile of particular disasters enables planning of pre-disaster measures and activities for effective risk management through experience and technology transfer, pre-disaster demonstration projects, elaboration of relevant programmes for technical assistance, education and training, as well as the evaluation of the effectiveness and organization of pre-disaster measures and activities.

Efforts to mitigate the effects of natural disasters must be interdisciplinary to cover social, economic, environmental and physical aspects. However, the major technical responsibility for reducing risk to natural disasters rests with engineers, architects and urban and regional planners. Engineers and architects have contributed to vulnerability reduction. And while the work of seismic engineers is being used in building codes and regulations, and concepts such as risk zonation are finding their way into development controls legislation, planners lag behind in incorporating risk reduction into comprehensive development plans.

Moreover, major investments are made after disasters strike. This infusion of investment and the physical heritage that it will create represents both an opportunity to regenerate the economic and social fabric of the region and the quality of the built environment we will leave to future generations.

The problem is basically one of protecting human life and generating orderly economic and social development: a process centred in human settlements.□

Ignacio Armillas is the Coordinator, Asia and Pacific Unit, Technical Cooperation Division.

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[1] Coburn, A., Spence, R., *Earthquake Protection*, John Wiley and Sons, Chichester, U.K., 1992. Based on data from the Cambridge University database of damaging earthquakes, 1900-1990.

[2] *Environment Working Paper No. 29*. Environment Policy and Research Division. The World Bank. 1990.

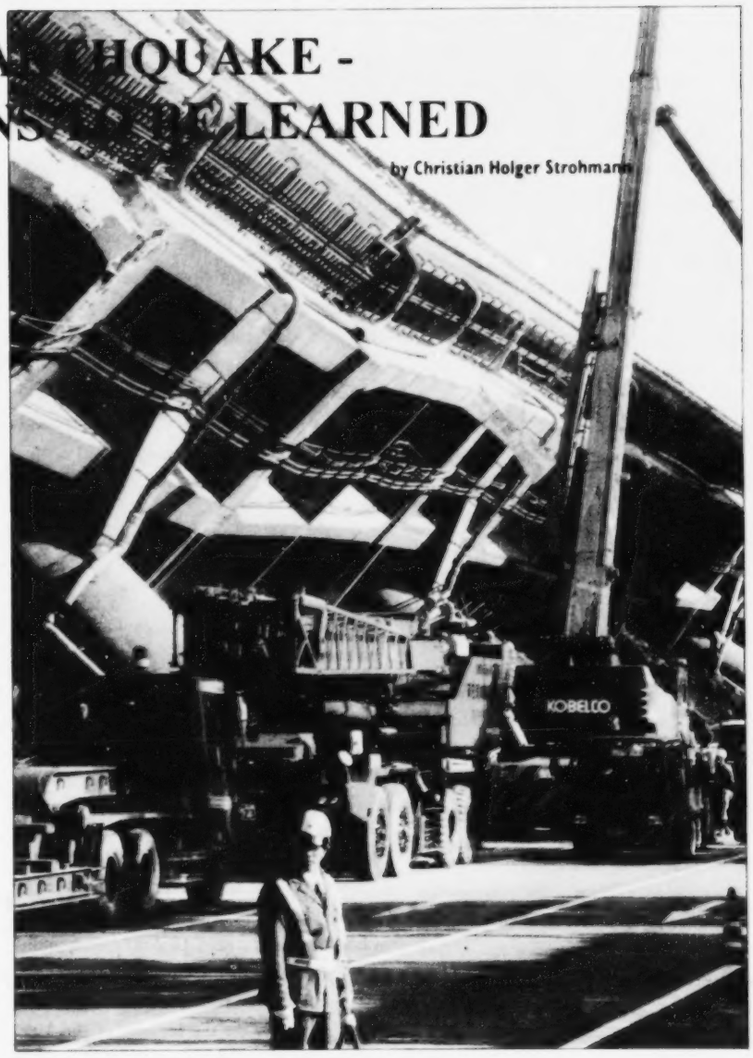
[3] Ibid.

[4] Armillas, I., Petrovski, J., Coburn, A., Corpuz, A. and Lewis, D. *Technical Report on the Luzon Earthquake of July 1990, Republic of the Philippines with Recommendations for Reconstruction and Development*, Expert Mission to Assist in the Reconstruction and Development After the Philippines Earthquake of 16 July 1990, UNCHS (Habitat), Nairobi, Kenya. 1990.

[5] Armillas, I., *Final Report Project MEX/86/009: Revitalization of the Historic Centre of Mexico City in the Context of Seismic Risk Mitigation*. United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, Nairobi, Kenya. 1989.

HANSHIN EA[illegible]HQUAKE - THE LESSONS [illegible] LEARNED

by Christian Holger Strohmaier



At 5:46 a.m. on 17 January 1995, the worst disaster in postwar Japan changed "Heaven's Door", as the city of Kobe was known, forever. The Great Hanshin Earthquake killed more than 5300, injured nearly 27,000 and left 300,000 homeless. This quake was the first killer temblor in modern Japan to strike a major urban centre, one of the country's and the world's largest port cities. Like countless other disasters, the Hanshin Earthquake has taught many lessons. It exposed the wretched fragility of highly advanced urban infrastructures, questioned building standards and proved the inevitable need for qualified governmental leadership to mitigate the impact and consequences on the population living in disaster-prone areas.

Adequate Life-saving Efforts Needed

After the Kobe Earthquake, highways were blocked by rubble and traffic, firefighters were incapacitated by cutoff water pipes and rescue teams had no equipment to remove debris to save those buried underneath. With mass-transit systems destroyed in the core of Kobe and nearby cities, life-saving efforts were left to relief workers and relatives of victims who had to walk, pedal bicycles or ride motorcycles many kilometres and for hours through the havoc to bring whatever they could to the ones they cared for. Lifelines were instantly disrupted by the fierce vibration that lasted more than 20 seconds, leaving tens of thousands of households that withstood the quake — including the household of this author — without water, power or gas.

Regulations and Facilities to be Re-examined

Damage caused by the earthquake in the Hanshin area was far beyond the expert's and official's expectations. Public facilities, housing and lifelines, as well as bullet train lines and expressways — long considered quake-resistant — were seriously damaged. Nine bridges collapsed in the quake, including part of the Hanshin Expressway linking Kobe with Osaka. One photograph was published around the world showing a 500-metre-stretch of the expressway fallen on its side when support pillars snapped at their bases. The quake damaged the main steel pillars of high-rise buildings in Ashiya, Hyogo Prefecture, shaking assumptions that tall buildings are temblor-proof.

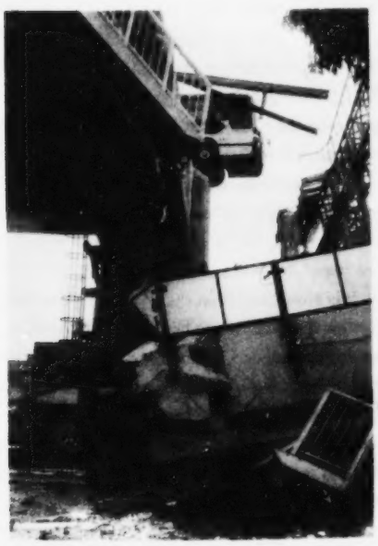
Of 52 apartment houses in Ashiyama Seaside Town built on reclaimed land, 21 that are between 40 and 70 meters tall suffered damage to their main pillars, according to officials of the firm which designed and constructed them. It is the first known instance of quake-caused damage to this type of support structure for skyscrapers. The apartment buildings, completed in 1979, each have eight main hollow pillars made of steel up to 5 cm thick. They measure up to 50 by 50 cm. The damage will be repaired quickly, but some of the residents have evacuated on their own initiative.

All this should be reason enough for authorities in other earthquake-prone regions to urgently re-examine design criteria, standards, and municipal facilities to prepare for a major earthquake, with attention to geographical and environmental conditions. The Tokyo Metropolitan Government, for example, is set to reconsider whether current earthquake countermeasures and regulations would be sufficient if a temblor the size of the Kobe quake were to hit the metropolis. First it should review how to secure necessary drinking water supplies and examine the safety of the structures built before the possible enactment of revised basic construction laws, which in some countries consider resistance to earthquake impacts. Experts have found that the quake of 17 January 1995, originating in a fault running directly un-

der the heavily populated Hanshin area, caused strong vertical as well as horizontal movements. Current building standards in Japan and elsewhere are not designed to withstand such vertical shocks.

According to Yoshio Kumagai, an associate professor of urban disaster prevention at the University of Tsukuba in Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture, safety inspections of buildings including ward and city offices, hospitals, schools and other public facilities that would be used as shelters, should be conducted promptly to determine whether they would serve their role properly in the case of another such disaster. Reinforcement of such facilities and of transportation lines is one of the basic measures that can be taken immediately. Also extensive practice and drills are necessary to be prepared for a massive quake similar to the Great Hanshin Earthquake, and to ensure that relief activities are carried out smoothly. In many cases stored supplies — including food, water and other emergency goods — might be enough for survivors in a quake, but the crucial measure is to take precautions so that distribution of such necessities will not be disrupted.

In this regard, some urban planners question the very concept of living in big cities. "High density as a result of seeking economic efficiency alone is making cities vulnerable to quakes. Living in big cities in itself involves the risk of massive damage from calamities like quakes", says Kozo Amano, a professor emeritus at Japan's Kyoto University, and specialist in transport and urban planning.



These scenes of destruction show a pancake-type collapse(above)of an office building, and further damage to the railway system(below). Photo credit: Dr. Kimoro Meguro, IWCEDE Newsletter Special issue of January 1995.

Residents' Participation and Governmental Guidance

Another Japanese expert, Shigeru Kashima, professor of civil engineering at Chuo University, emphasizes the role of community involvement in decision-making. To convert cities into better and safer places to live, he suggests residents be allowed to participate in city planning. "To realize that, local governments should disclose information," he said. "To prevent such a tragedy as the Kobe earthquake, individuals must start thinking of ways to make their voices heard in city planning."

Very much in line with this appeal goes a well-organized governmental approach to cope from the first minute with the devastating effects caused by an earthquake or any other natural disaster. While quake survivors in Japan were making their own progress, the national and local governments came under harsh attack both at home and abroad for what was criticized as benign neglect. In the opinion of Professor Koichi Oizumi of Nihon University, "the government made a critical mistake in the most basic and important aspect of crisis control by failing to estimate the human and material damage in the early hours. Because it must have assumed the damage was not very serious, further responses were hindered at every step." Satoshi Morimoto, senior researcher at Nomura Research Institute, observed that "ugly aspects of bureaucratic sectionalism and red tape are often exposed in emergencies, because under decision-making systems such as in Japan, the Prime Minister has enormous difficulty centralizing power by usurping the role of competing ministries'. Morimoto's advice: procedures and manuals stipulating who decides what in times of crisis.

One of the main lessons emanating from the Kobe earthquake is the need for the drastic revamping of the administrative organization so that an effective and efficient crisis management system can be established. Certainly such a demand applies not only to Japan. Instead, the Hanshin Earthquake should be used as a model for all cities to prepare for similar natural disasters.□

Christian Holger Strohmann works with the International Environment Technology Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), at the Osaka Office.

Editorial Note

UNCHS (Habitat) in collaboration with the World Bank and UNDP is implementing an interregional project on the reduction of vulnerability to natural or technological disasters in metropolitan areas. That project is one of the recognized worldwide demonstration projects for the International Decade on Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR). The four selected metropolitan areas for the initial case studies are located in Brazil, the Philippines and Turkey.

WOMEN BREAKING THE VICIOUS CIRCLE:
A GENDER PERSPECTIVE ON CAUSE AND EFFECT IN THE BURUNDESE AND RWANDESE CONFLICTS

by Marieke van Geldermaisen

This widow is part of a woman's self-help group which operates across ethnic lines rebuilding Rwanda. Photo credit: Marieke van Geldermaisen

Can the rapid and profound changes in social patterns resulting from disasters be lasting, and can they be used in the reconstruction process? Can women put in non-traditional roles by such circumstances consolidate this change for the better? Looking at some of the causes of the Burundese and Rwandese conflicts, puts this in doubt.

Gender roles change radically during disaster situations. Men and women, usually together in family units that make their different roles nearly invisible, are separated. The men go out to defend the community, while the women stay and have to take up men's work to maintain the community in their absence. These changes are predictable from the original patterns. During recent floodings in Western Europe, we saw mainly men with sandbags defending the country against the water, while women were in the majority in tasks such as taking care of evacuated populations. The roles were accentuated rather than challenged.

In human-made disasters, as in natural disasters, men and women again are separated to defend or maintain the community respectively. Rwanda is the most vivid and saddest example. The camps of internally displaced people are filled with women, since the men and boys got killed first because they were or could become soldiers. Even though more women than men survived, their fate was hard. Many would have preferred to die, rather than witnessing the murder of their beloved ones or carrying the child of their rapists. The surviving women, together in camps, could not stick to their traditional roles as farmers and housewives; to survive they had to take up the care of the orphans, the wounded and elderly, and to manage the camps. And so they did.

Let me give just one example. A UNCHS (Habitat) general service staff member was in Byumba (north-eastern Rwanda) when the war broke out. She could not return home, and started to organize the nearly 20,000 refugees — mainly women and children — that poured into the area in the weeks that followed. At that time there was no outside support in the form of money or materials; the women only had their character to build upon, but they managed. Victims beaten into passivity were transformed into agents of their own development, actively building a new community.

Can such experiences result in a lasting, promising change? Can these women, now that they have for some time succeeded in performing non-traditional roles, participate more equally in the reconstruction of their country? Can women, who largely don't participate in warfare, found a society based on tolerance rather than hatred? To a certain extent, maybe. UNCHS (Habitat) has a programme for reconstruction in Rwanda. One of the projects in this programme consists of reproducing this experience from Byumba in other parts of the country. This is a very encouraging prospect which will most certainly generate a maximum of output on the basis of limited financial input.

But women remain remarkably absent in the committees that coordinate aid. They do not want to "waste" time in talking and work hard, thus leaving the decision-making process to government officials, foreign aid workers, politicians, most of them men often from outside the affected community.

It is questionable if women's initiatives will be enough for lasting change. First, there is the problem of justice. Both Rwanda and neighbouring Burundi have known violent ethnic clashes for decades. There were large-scale killings amongst others, in Burundi in 1972 and again in 1993, in Rwanda during the Social Revolution of 1959 and in 1994. The culture in these countries is such that survivors don't talk about their traumatic experiences, even when reconciliation seems to take place. But imagine a woman who saw her father killed in 1972, her husband in 1993, with both murders unpunished. She will not talk about it to her children, never use the word "rape", but will she stop her son in 2015 from joining a militia? I doubt it. It is more likely that she will think something like "Let him take revenge, now it is their turn to be widowed." Avoiding a cyclical return to violence in Burundi and Rwanda only seems possible when criminals are punished through due legal process. The society must be built on justice, not on brutal power.

Second, the problems causing ethnic clashes must be solved. The ethnic differences, hardly noticeable to an outsider, are a symptom rather than a cause of the problems. One of the main problems is land. Hutu and Tutsi lived together for centuries, their countries were not disrupted or destroyed

by the slave trade and the borders are those of the old kingdoms, not imposed by colonial powers. The conflict between Hutu and Tutsi burst into violence when the population became so dense (up to 400 persons per km² in some regions) that large groups of people were left without land or prospects. The average farm in both countries is less than a hectare in size — in fact too small to make a decent living. This article is too short to go into the details of the causes of high population density and the remarkable lack of urbanization in the two countries[1].

These two phenomena, combined with a fast-growing population leading to a demographic time bomb, have always been controlled by those in power to maintain their own positions and to benefit their own people. And "own people" is not only defined by ethnic origin, but regional factors as well.

The surface of the land remains the same and the population doubles every 25 years. In order to break through the vicious circle of violence, a true alternative for rural life must be open to all to reduce the too-high densities in rural areas. Present circumstances have led to an undesirable overnight urbanization and ethnic segregation. (On 20 October 1993 five per cent of Burundi's population lived in the urban centres, making it one of the least urbanized countries in the world; two weeks later 10 per cent did). Regional solutions, land reforms and innovative approaches to urbanization and migration are vital to solve the existing deadlock in the crisis of refugees and the internally displaced. And even then it can be doubted if this is enough to solve all underlying causes.

Can the women who have moved into non-traditional roles in surviving the war, who hold such a promise of reconciliation, make such changes happen? When you define land as a key source of the problems, then women probably will not be able to break the vicious circle of violence. Access to and control over land by women is limited by conservative customary law. If clashes arise out of land disputes, and you want women to take the lead in conflict resolution and consequent rebuilding, there is a fundamental problem in that women have little or no access to land.

Despite the striking differences between men and women on land issues, there is little consideration of or even data on the gender aspects of land management. UNCHS (Habitat) is one of the pioneers in stimulating research in this field, and Rwanda and Burundi deserve to be major topics. □

Marieke van Geldermalsen works for the Women in Human Settlements Development Programme of the Research and Development Division of UNCHS (Habitat).

Rebuilding, with women working together in the same group. Photo from the author.

[1] On this subject the following thesis is recommended: Paul Sirven, *La sous-urbanisation et les villes de Burundi et Rwanda* (Bordeaux, 1988).

SOLIDARITÉ
BY KABORÉ OGER

How can one live happily on this earth
When there are people in misery?
Is it possible to enjoy life
Without reflecting on the sick, the famished?
Can one sleep peacefully
When disaster victims are in distress?
In the presence of such dramas the heart trembles.
For all these people it is necessary to act.

REFRAIN:
NATIONAL SOLIDARITY
HOLDING EACH OTHERS' HANDS
NATIONAL SOLIDARITY
IS THE STRUGGLE OF A WHOLE PEOPLE.

Yes, it is true that natural disasters
Sometimes affect populations:
Drought, famine, floods.
There are also the social problems, the underprivileged,
Who must be helped.

How can one live happily on this earth
When there are people in misery?
Our support in all forms
Can relieve our suffering brothers.

To aid our fellow men is to aid ourselves
For the good deed is never lost. (repeat)
To live in solidarity like our ancestors
To come to help others, to save their lives.

REFRAIN
(Refrain repeated here in Moré, the national language)

How can one live happily on this earth
When there are people in misery?
To aid our fellow men is to aid ourselves
For the good deed is never lost. (repeat)

To live in solidarity like our ancestors
To be generous, to save lives.

REFRAIN

For the disaster victims, the widows and orphans
Is the struggle of everyone.
And for the street children and the old abandoned women
Is everyone's struggle.
Oh yes, for all the disinherited, marginalized,
Is the struggle of everyone.

How can one live happily on this earth
When there are people in misery?
Is it possible to enjoy life
Without reflecting on the sick, the famished?
Can one sleep peacefully
When disaster victims are in distress? (repeat)

In the presence of such dramas the heart trembles.
For all these people it is necessary to act.

REFRAIN

Yes, it is true that natural disasters
Sometimes affect populations:
Drought, famine, floods.
There are also the social problems, the underprivileged,
Who must be helped.

How can one live happily on this earth
When there are people in misery?
Our support in all forms
Can relieve our suffering brothers.
To aid our fellow men is to aid ourselves
For the good deed is never lost. (repeat)

To live in solidarity like our ancestors
To come to help others, to save their lives.

REFRAIN *in French and in Moré*

Transcribed by Sylvie Lacroux

This song was composed by Kaboré Oger, singer-composer from Burkina Faso, on the occasion of the ceremonial opening of the Sub-regional Seminar on Natural Disaster Reduction, held at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 15-23 March 1995. He was commissioned by the Ministry of Social Affairs of Burkina Faso, and a cassette was produced by that Ministry.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Emergency Assistance Programme for the Rehabilitation and Reconstruction of Kigali and other Urban Centres

by Doudou S. Mbye

This programme, **UNCHS** (Habitat)'s first direct intervention in Rwanda, was conceived immediately after the cessation of hostilities in September 1994 between the warring factions there. It was designed mainly to assist the new Government of National Reconciliation in its rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts to usher in an atmosphere of stability and confidence-building.

At the time of designing the programme there were many areas of feasible intervention but due to limitations in funding, the programme ended up with four components.

1. Institutional support to the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Integration (MINIREISO), Ministry of Public Works and Energy (MINITRAPE), and Prefecture of Kigali (PVK) to enhance their administrative and operational capacities.

2. Establishing structures and procedures for the development of sites to resettle returnees.

3. Rehabilitating central government buildings in Kigali and other urban centres, thus improving the working conditions of Government employees.

4. Emergency clean-up of the capital city of Kigali and the development of a long-term institutional arrangement for sanitation and waste management.

The total financing available for RWA/94/010 stood at $US962,500 when the project document was signed on 14 December 1994.

Update on Implementation

1. The Chief Technical Advisor is *en poste*. A programme unit has been formally established at MINIREISO, and a secretary and driver recruited as administrative support for the unit. A United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Civil Engineer specializing in building works has arrived to support MINITRAPE in carrying out this component. Two other UNVs are currently being recruited to support MINIREISO and the Prefecture of Kigali on components 2 and 4 respectively. Studies have been undertaken on Solid-waste management and sanitation for the city of Kigali and on Housing-shelter policy for the short-, medium- and long-term in Rwanda. In the interest of capacity-building, national component coordinators have been identified.

2. The Government of Rwanda has identified sites for the resettlement of returnees. The first site, Nyarutarama, is located in the northeast of Kigali. Local consulting firms have submitted technical and financial proposals for a topographic study of 60 hectares of land available there. A site development study and the preparation of technical and contract documents plus the engagement of contractor(s) for physical works will follow.

3. The Parliament building - National Council for Development (CND) rehabilitation work is currently underway. The roof is now complete, thus securing the furniture,

NOTES cont...

electrical/electronic appliances and carpeting from any further damage by rain. Work is presently concentrated on the ceiling, repair of bomb and shrapnel holes in concrete walls and entrances, and the replacement of doors and broken panes of glass. A list of seven additional priority buildings has recently been submitted by MINITRAPE for rehabilitation; work has started on the evaluation of damages for the preparation of bills of quantities and programming of the rehabilitation works.

A complementary project has recently been agreed upon with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Kigali – which entails the rehabilitation of public buildings in other prefectures. The total amount involved is $US1.4 million. MINITRAPE with the respective local authorities is now choosing buildings to be rehabilitated.

4. The Kigali prefecture (PVK) has launched a two-month emergency solid waste collection and disposal programme under the auspices of RWA/94/010, following the termination of AFRICARE (US NGO) funding at the end of March 1995. The programme included the financing of repairs of three refuse collection trucks; purchase of fuel, lubricants and engine oil; and the hiring of five additional refuse collection trucks and payment of labour costs.□

Doudou S. Mbye is Chief Technical Advisor with project RWA/94/010, which he describes above.

A Brief Note on Yemen

TCD, Unit I's future consultant mission in Yemen

by Ismail Hammad

A 5-week consultancy mission is expected to be fielded in June 1995, in order to conduct a qualitative and quantitative damage and needs assessment of the urban environment and socio-economic facilities and equipment in southern governorates, particularly Aden, as a result of the recent civil strife in Yemen. The consultant is expected to prepare a short technical report, including a brief assessment of the current situation and actions so far taken by the Government and bilateral aid agencies, in addition to other findings, conclusions, and recommendations. Based on the report, the consultant is also expected to draft project proposals, and at least one project document, on the technical assistance required to support the potential capital assistance anticipated to be furnished by donor and bilateral agencies.□

Ismail Hammad is Senior Human Settlements Adviser, Unit I, Technical Cooperation Division, UNCHS (Habitat).

A brief note on Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka Sector Study

by Siew-Peng Yong

As follow-up to a UNCHS project on Landslide Hazard Mapping in Sri Lanka, UNCHS is now undertaking a study to integrate risk assessment methodology and hazard factors into land-use planning. The rationale is to carry forward from the capacity to produce maps to their full use by all Government agencies. The objective of the sector study would then be to institutionalize the process so that landslide hazard maps become the basis for development planning in all areas.

On its part the Government of Sri Lanka has agreed to set up a National Committee on the Utilization of Landslide Hazard Maps for Planning and Development which will:

(1) identify the needs of end users,
(2) coordinate the dissemination of hazard maps for all seven landslide-prone areas in Sri Lanka, and
(3) demonstrate the utility of hazard maps through examples. □

Siew-Peng Yong is Human Settlements Adviser, Unit III, Technical Cooperation Division.

A brief note on Angola

Community Rehabilitation Programme in Angola

by Axumite Gebre-Egziabher

In March 1995, UNCHS fielded a mission to Angola to undertake a human settlements analysis and needs assessment, determine the damage suffered by the communities and propose a community-based rehabilitation programme. The mission prepared UNCHS (Habitat)'s contribution to the Community Rehabilitation Programme (ANG/94/001), which was sent to UNDP, Luanda for review. Then UNCHS was invited for a workshop in which the proposed projects were screened together with project proposals for other sectors during the week of 9-14 April in Luanda.

Thus UNCHS undertook another mission to Luanda to participate in the screening process of the project proposals and provided explanations and amplifications on the project documents as required by UNDP and other parties involved. The selected projects will be put forward for discussion at the Roundtable - Donor community meeting scheduled for September in Brussels. □

Axumite Gebre-Egziabher is Human Settlements Adviser, Unit II, Technical Cooperation Division, UNCHS (Habitat).

BOOKS NOTED

NEW FROM HABITAT

"Sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world, including issues related to land policies and mitigation of natural disasters" Report of the Executive Director to the fifteenth session of the Commission on Human Settlements, HS/C/15/6

This report defines sustainable urban development, relates the definition to human settlements and discusses the main dimensions of sustainable development: environmental, technological, economic and socio-political. The second section discuses land issues with a focus on the rising demand for land, its physical degradation, and the need to use land to raise urban municipal finance.

Section three focuses on the mitigation of natural disasters within urban settlements, with regard to the location and land-use policies needed to minimize encroachment on to hazardous areas, and the building technologies suited to disaster mitigation. Section four discusses the action necessary for implementing sustainable human settlements policies at local, national and international levels, while the final section presents issues and possible action on which the Commission might wish to deliberate.

After such deliberation, the Commission passed a resolution on the topic; it is discussed elsewhere in this issue.

UNCHS/UNEP, "Report of an International Workshop Nairobi, 25-27 April 1994: Human settlements and the environment — Strategies for action in the continuum from relief to development" HS/340/94E; ISBN 92-1-131249 (UNCHS), 92-807-1445-7 (UNEP)

This workshop presented an opportunity for the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Continuum from Relief to Development to review with other experts and organizations the human-settlements and environmental strategies for action in the continuum from relief to development. These centred around four themes: vulnerability reduction and development, post-disaster recovery strategies, community action in disaster management, and civil strife and development.

Its conclusions, presented in the report, will contribute towards implementing the recommendations of Agenda 21, and the objective stated in paragraph 7.58, "to enable all countries, in particular those that are disaster-prone, to mitigate the negative impact of natural and man-made disasters on human settlements, national economies and the environment".

These recommendations included the need to focus contributions on the stockpiling and supply of knowledge rather than the delivery of goods and facilities, with the focus of action on communities. The workshop suggested that the continuum build a collective institutional memory on the environmental and human-settlements aspects of disasters, analyzing past experiences and providing comprehensive case studies on post-disaster interventions. Assessment and evaluation mechanisms, a review of shelter and settlement standards, resettlements planning and attention to numerous smaller events all required attention. The most important development area was capacity-building, which should first concentrate on strengthening a few existing centres of excellence. Transfer of knowledge and management experience was also recommended, e.g. the Sahel drought-reduction programme, and the Mexican, Colombian and Ethiopian preparedness systems and indigenous knowledge systems.

ALSO NOTED

***Earth Space Review*, Vol.2, No. 2 1994 ISSN 1060-1848**

"Smart maps help disaster relief" by Beatrice Lacoste presents "a new, cost-effective tool that will save precious time and help protect the environment". Developed by UNCHS (Habitat) together with the Technical Research Centre of Finland, Visual Settlements Planning (ViSP), uses off-the-shelf technology to combine video and satellite images, aerial photographs and maps. Using overlays, the planner can then more easily and accurately choose options for the siting of the various aspects of human settlements — and protect the poor from unnecessary loss during disasters. The article is illustrated with images of a section of Ormoc City in the Philippines which highlight buildings in the potential danger area in a disaster scenario. Further information from Mr. Jukka Nieminen, UNCHS (Habitat).

Le Monde diplomatique, *Le bouleversement du monde* (manière de voir 25, Février 1995)

In the first section, War of civilizations?, the question is raised, "Can the United Nations, born of the victory over Nazism, be reformed, or must a new system be invented to face the multi-faceted challenges facing humanity?"

United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs, *DHA News*, September-December 1994 (Nos. 11-12) ISSN 0250-9377

The final thematic piece asks whether there can be a universal approach to emergency information exchange, concluding that "there is now a good possibility of establishing a shared universal and partly decentralized system provided some key questions are solved."

***Disaster Prevention and Management: An international Journal incorporating Disaster Management* (Vol. 4, No. 2 1995) ISSN 0965-3562**

As the title indicates, the journal *Disaster Management* is now incorporated with *Disaster Prevention and Management*. Under "News" on the Kobe earthquake an interesting note is that "In atonement for their collective failure to the people of Kobe, cabinet ministers pledged a month's salary (about $10,000 each) for earthquake relief."

***Disasters Around the World — A Global and Regional View*: World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, Japan, 23-27 May 1994, Information Paper No. 4, DHA/94/132**

This overview of disasters from 1 January 1963 to 31 December 1992 illustrates a rising trend of vulnerability to significant disasters (those with damage of 1 per cent or more of total annual GNP, 1 per cent or more of the total population affected, and 100 or more deaths). Statistics garnered show that floods, tropical storms, drought and earthquakes are the most damaging

dividually to the economies of the stricken untries; that drought, tropical storms and ods affect the largest numbers of people per saster; and that floods, tropical storms, idemics and earthquakes cause the highest mbers of deaths per disasters. Floods and pical storms are the most damaging overall, th the overwhelming majority of occurrences th significant effects in all three categories fining significant disasters.

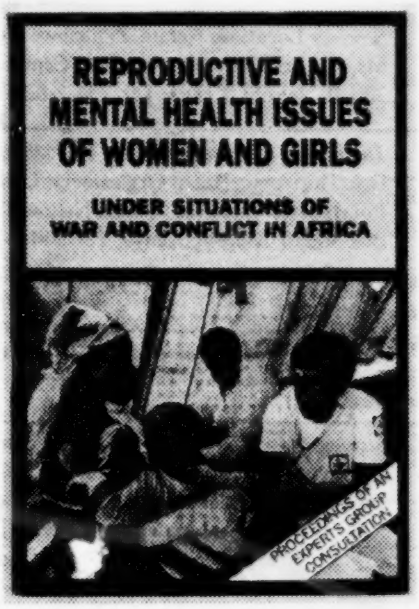
Regional views for the Caribbean, Central nerica, Eastern Africa, Eastern Asia, Europe, iddle East/North Africa, North America, cific, South America, Southeastern Asia/Aus-lia, Southern Africa, Southern Asia and West-n Africa are included. The number of natural sasters, and their impact on stricken regions ntinues to worsen, especially in developing eas. "Along with ever-mounting economic sses, the inevitable result is a serious negative pact on sustainable development...The main nclusion of the study, therefore, is that efforts the area of disaster reduction must be engthened worldwide if there is to be any hope r sustainable development anywhere... for dis-ter mitigation efforts in the most vulnerable eas of the world are an essential step in ducing the impact of disasters, thus providing viable platform for sustainable development those areas."

Refugees, the journal of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees No. 99, 1-1995 ISSN 1052-791 X

he topic of this issue is regional solutions, for rom Central America to Liberia, Indo-China d the Great Lakes, regional and comprehensive sponses may be the only possible solution to e complexity and magnitude of today's refugee oblems." The same topic will be examined in NHCR's next biennial report, "The State of e World's Refugees: The Search for lutions", scheduled for publication by Oxford niversity Press in November 1995.

Repatriation" is a special report, "Back to Mozambique", by the Public Information ection of UNHCR.

too speaks of regional stability, for the inter-ational community by helping an entire popu-tion to rebuild their troubled country can thus ssist the stability of the whole region. epatriation from Malawi, South Africa, waziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia is involved, as are efforts in agriculture, education, water and health. The danger posed by land mines rates an article of its own.


REPRODUCTIVE AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS
UNDER SITUATIONS OF WAR AND CONFLICT IN AFRICA
PROCEEDINGS OF AN EXPERT'S GROUP CONSULTATION

Reproductive and Mental Health Issues of Women and Girls under Situations of War and Conflict in Africa: Proceedings of the Expert Group Consultation 4-5 August 1994, Nairobi, Kenya

This UNIFEM/AFWIC/UNICEF publication includes a number of case studies from Burundi, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, southern Sudan and Somalia, plus an executive summary of observations and recommendations — some as simple as the inclusion of sanitary napkins in emergency relief, others as profound as using the emergency to create opportunities for positive change.

***STOP Disasters*, the United Nations International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Newsletter, Nov.-Dec. 1994, ISSN 1018-0850**

This issue leads with an editorial on making information work where it's needed most by Claude de Ville de Goyet of the Pan American Health Organization. (This issue was prepared in collaboration with the PAHO/WHO Documentation Centre for Disasters in San Jose, Costa Rica.) Regional articles on Asia, southern Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean follow. More details are provided in the "Partners in Action" section.

"What is the Internet?" from the Internet Society is balanced by "Into the Information Age: A letter from the frontier" by Art Bottereli.

Further articles include one on "The Design and Management of an International Disaster Information Resource Network" by Edward M. Gross and Patrick T. Stringley.

At the bottom of each page is the welcome information: "Reproduction with attribution is permitted and encouraged".

Swedish International Development Authority, ***Studies on Emergencies and Disaster Relief***

Report No.1 by K.B. Wilson: ***Internally Displaced, Refugees and Returnees from and in Mozambique***, 1994 (ISSN 1400-3120; ISBN 91-7106-361-7);

Report No. 2: ***Refugee and Labour Movements in sub-Saharan Africa*** — a review by Jonathan Baker and ***Shelter Provision and Settlement Policies for Refugees*** — a state of the art review by Roger Zetter, 1995 (ISSN 1400-3120; ISBN 91-7106-362-5);

Report No. 3: ***Somali Refugees in the Horn of Africa*** — state of the art literature review by Sidney Waldron and Naima A. Hasci, 1995 (ISSN 1400-3120; ISBN 91-7106-363-3)£5.95

The first report focuses on significant themes, approaches and findings, offering suggestions for workshops, in-service training and support to the Refugee Studies Programme of the University of Oxford. In the second, Baker discusses the positive contributions made by refugees to host countries and labour migration as a form of capital accumulation. Zetter also challenges misleading assumptions; he contends that relief and development are complementary concepts, that refugees can build and upgrade their own shelters, and that they must be given the right to work to facilitate self-help. Waldron and Hasci take an approach concerned as much with establishing a context and framework for analysis as with the items themselves; they stress the need for further literature collection, appraisal of events and analysis of lessons to be learnt. They note, "Our literature is also concerned with the history and experience of those who truly deserve understanding and recognition — the victims and their experiences which otherwise may be lost from sight. The lives of the poor are too often lost in the perspective of history." □

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

12 August 1995,
Harare, Zimbabwe

Sustainable Development Habitat/FIG Round Table: Towards Habitat II International Seminar **Location:** Harare, Zimbabwe **Organizers:** FIG/CASLE **Habitat Focal Point:** Ms. S. Lacroux, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3108; Fax: 254-2-62 4265

14-16 August 1995,
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

The Future of Latin American Cities/Expert Meeting Regional Conference **Location:** Belo Horizonte, Brazil **Organizers:** UNEP/ UNCHS (Habitat)/ IADB **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. I. Imparato, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3703; Fax: 254-2-62 4265

23-25 August 1995,
Tokyo, Japan

World Cities and the Urban Future Colloquium **Location:** Tokyo, Japan **Organizers:** United Nations University/Japan Habitat Society, The National Institute of Research Advancement **Focal Point:** Mr. Fu Chen Lo, Senior Academic Officer; Tel: 81-3-5467-1288; Fax:81-3-3499-2828

24-25 August 1995,
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Strategies for Financing the City Regional Conference **Location:** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil **Organizers:** Municipality of Rio de Janeiro/IBAM/UNCHS (Habitat) **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. A. Paranhos, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-623792; Fax: 254-2-624263; E-Mail:Alberto. Paranhos@unep.no **Local Focal Point:** Ms. Marlene Fernandes, IBAM, Largo IBAM, 1 22271-070 Rio, Brazil; Tel: 55-21-537-7595; Fax:55-21-537-1262

24-25 August 1995,
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Latin American and Caribbean Regional Seminar on Urban Financing Strategies **Location:** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil **Organizers:** Habitat/Rio de Janeiro Municipality/IBAM **Local Focal Point:** Marlene Fernandes, Brazilian Institute of Municipal Administration, IBAM, Largo de IBAM No 1 Humaitá-22271-070, Rio de Janeiro-RJ, Brazil; Tel: 021 537 7595; Fax: 021 537 1262

25-27 August 1995,
Helsinki, Finland

UNU/WIDER Conference on Human Settlements in the Changing Global Political and Economic Processes **Location:** Helsinki, Finland **Organizers:** The United Nations University/World Institute for Development Economic Research **Focal Point:** UNU/WIDER; Tel: +358-0-693 841, Fax: +358-0-693 8548; Telex: 123455 unuei fi; E-Mail wider@wider.unu.edu

28-30 August 1995,
Jakarta, Indonesia

Access to Land and Security of Tenure Habitat II Regional Consultation **Location:** Jakarta, Indonesia **Organizers:** FIABCI/Indonesian Committee Habitat II/UMP-Asia, Pacific and UNCHS (Habitat) **Habitat Focal Point:** Ms. S. Lacroux, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3108; Fax: 254-2-62 4265 **Focal Point:** Mr. N. Von Einsiedel, UMP-AP, UNCHS (Habitat), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Tel: (603) 253 2934/5; Fax: (603) 253 2932

30 August - 8 September 1995,
Jakarta, Indonesia

"Women, Homes and Communities" One day workshop during the NGO Forum of the Fourth World Conference on Women **Location:** Beijing, China **Organizers:** HIC: Women & Shelter Network/GROOTS International/International Council of Women)/ UNCHS (Habitat) **Habitat Focal Point:** Ms. Catalina Trujillo, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3031; Fax: 254-2-62 4265

SEPTEMBER

3-7 September 1995,
The Hague, the Netherlands

32nd IULA World Congress **Location:** The Hague, the Netherlands **Organizers:** IULA **Focal Point**: IULA World Congress Secretariat, c/o Municipality of the Hague, P. O. Box 80.000, 2508 GA the Hague, the Netherlands; Phone: 31-70-353-2528; Fax: 31-70 -353-3588

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-6 September 1995,
Quito, Ecuador

Civic Engagement Sub-Regional Workshop **Location:** Quito, Ecuador **Organizers:** CONADE/UNCHS (Habitat) **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. G. Lüdeking, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3110; Fax:254-2-62 4265

5-6-7 September 1995,
Beijing, China

The Gendered City 1/2 day workshop (date to be confirmed by China, as host of the Fourth World Conference on Women) **Location:** Beijing, China **Organizers:** UNCHS (Habitat) **Habitat Focal Point:** Ms. Catalina Trujillo, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya, Tel: 254-2-62 3031; Fax: 254-2-62 4265

7-9 September 1995,
Recife, Brazil

FIABCI Regional Meeting **Location:** Recife, Brazil **Organizers:** FIABCI **Local Focal Point:** Mr. L. Carlos P. Almeida, FIABCI; Fax: (55-11) 210-0958

10-13 September 1995,
Washington, United States

Habitat Urban Finance Conference Global Conference **Location:** Washington, United States of America **Organizers:** The World Bank/UNCHS (Habitat) **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. K. Kim, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3910; Fax: 254-2-624264;E-mail: Kyung-Hwan.Kim@unep.no **Local Focal Point:** Ms. P. Annez, Chief, Urban Development Division, TWURD, The World Bank, 1818H Street NW, Washington D.C. 20433, USA; Tel: 202 473 9331; Fax: 202 5223232; E-mail: Pannez@worldbank.org

11-13 September 1995,
San José, Costa Rica

Civic Engagement Sub-regional Workshop **Location:** San José, Costa Rica **Organizers:** CCVAH/UNCHS (Habitat) **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. G. Lüdeking, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3110; Fax:254-2-62 4265

11-15 September 1995,
Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Challenges of the Informal Town International Seminar **Location**: Belo Horizonte, Brazil **Organizers:** Municipality of Belo Horizonte/AVSI/PUC-MG/UNCHS (Habitat)/UNDP **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. I. Imparato, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3703; Fax: 254-2-62 4265 **Local Focal Point:** Ms. Anna C. Michelini, AVSI, Praca da Sé, 1 CEP 40020-210, Salvador (BA), Brazil; Tel:55-71-322-1366; Fax: 55-71-322-1367

17-19 September 1995,
Cambridge, Mass, United States

Global City Regions: Their Evolution and Management **Location:** Cambridge, Mass, United States of America **Organizers:** Lincoln Institute of Land Policy **Focal Point:** Denis Robinson, 113, Brattle Street, Cambridge (MA) 02138-3400; Tel: 1-617-661-3016; Fax: 1-617-661-7235

18-20 September 1995,
UN Headquarters, New York

DPI-NGO Conference on UN at the Turn of Century, Global Issues, Global Actors and Global Responsibilities. Conference **Location:** UN headquarters, New York **Organizers:** UNCHS (Habitat) **Habitat Focal Point:** UNCHS (Habitat), New York Office, Room DC2-0943: Two U.N. Plaza; New York, NY 10017; Telephone: (212) 963-4200; Fax: (212) 963-8721

23-25 September 1995,
Beijing, China

Demand Management of Urban Transport **Location:** Beijing, China **Organizers:** Ministry of Construction **Local Focal Point:** Mr. Dong Li, Deputy Division Chief, Department of International Relation, Ministry of Construction of the People's Republic of China, 9 San Li He Road, Beijing 100839, China; Tel: 86 1 8323296, 8393833; Fax: 861 8313669 **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. K. Ray, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3039; Fax: 254-2-62 4265

25-29 September 1995,
Suntec City, Singapore

XXIII IAHS World Housing Congress **Location:** Suntec City, Singapore **Organizers:** International Association for Housing Science, United States of America **Focal Point:** XXIII IAHS WORLD HOUSING CONGRESS 1995, CTMA Pte Ltd, 425A Race Course Road, Singapore 0821; Tel: +65/2998992; Fax: +65/2998983 **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. U. Naiker, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3139; Fax: 254-2-62 4250

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

26-29 September 1995,
Accra, Ghana

Civic Engagement Sub-Regional Workshop **Location:** Accra, Ghana **Organizers:** Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development/ UNCHS (Habitat) **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. G. Lüdeking, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3110; Fax: 254-2-62 4265

27-30 September 1995,
Curitiba, Brazil

A Place to Live: Homes and Streets Global Workshop **Location:** Curitiba, Brazil **Organizers:** Municipality of Curitiba **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. A. Paranhos, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-623792; Fax: 254-2-624263; E-Mail:Alberto. Paranhos@unep.no **Local Focal Point:** Ms. Marilia Isfer-Ravanello, Municipality of Curitiba, Department of Government, Av. Camdido de Abreu, 817, 80530-908 Curitiba, Brazil, Tel: 55-41-321-8119; Fax: 55-41-321-8522

27-30 September 1995,
Santiago, Chile

Trans Americas Congress "Better Living...Adding Life to Years" **Location:** Santiago, Chile **Organizers:** International Council for Caring Communities **Focal Point:** Ms. Diane Davis, International Council for Caring Communities; Tel: 1-212-688-4321; Fax: 1-212-759-5893

27-30 September 1995,
Rabat, Morocco

Third Arab Preparatory Conference for Habitat II **Location:** Rabat, Morocco **Organizer:** Ministry of Housing/LAS/Habitat Regional Office **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. Ali Shabou, UNCHS Regional Information Office for Arab States, P.O. Box 35286, Amman, Jordan; Tel: 962-6-668171-76; Fax: 962-6-676582

September 1995,
Calcutta, India

Social Reform and Decentralization Regional Conference **Location:** Calcutta, India **Organizers:** The Times Research Foundation **Local Focal Point:** Mr. R. M. Kapoor; Tel: 033-242 9445; Fax: 033-242 3747

September 1995,
Warsaw, Poland

Role of Cities in Future Development Colloquium **Location:** Warsaw, Poland **Organizers:** UNDP/DDSMS **Local Focal Point:** Mr. Gary Gabriel, UNDP Resident Representative, Poland; Fax:48-22-259245; Tel: 48-22-254958 **Focal Point:** Mrs. Itako Suzuki, UNDP, Tel: 1-212 963 8418 **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. T. Sudra, Chief Training Section, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3034; Fax: 254-2-62 4265

September 1995,
Lisbon, Portugal

Our Neighbourhood Workshop **Location:** Lisbon, Portugal **Organizers:** Municipality of Lisbon/University of Birmingham ENHR **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. S. Erguden, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 4231; Fax: 254-2-62 3080

September 1995,
Caribbean (to be decided)

Sub-Regional Ministers' Meeting **Location**: Carribbean (to be decided) **Organizers:** CARICOM/OECS **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. R. Ottolenghi, (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-623177; Fax: 254-2-624263; E-mail: Roberto.Ottolenghi@unep.no **Local Focal Point:** Mr. Frank Granger, CARICOM, Bank of Guyana Building, Georgetown, Guyana Building, P. O. Box 10827, Tel:592-2-67280-9, Fax:592-2-67816/67341

September 1995,
Maputo, Mozambique

Sub-Regional Portuguese-Speaking African Ministers' meeting **Location:** Maputo, Mozambique **Organizers:** UNCHS Habitat II **Habitat Focal Point:** Mr. S. Sesay and Ms. S. Wakeham, (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3033; Fax: 254-2-62 3080; E-Mail: habitat2@unep.no

OCTOBER

2 October 1995,
Curitiba, Brazil

World Habitat Day **Location:** Curitiba, Brazil **Organizers:** UNCHS (Habitat) **Habitat Focal Point:** Ms. C. Engfeldt, (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-623067; Fax:254-2-62 4060; E-mail: habitat2@unep.no **Local Focal Point:** Ms. Marilia Isfer-Ravanello, Municipality of Curitiba, Department of Government, Av. Camdido de Abreu, 817 80530-908 Curitiba, Brazil; Tel: 55-41-321-8119; Fax: 55-41-321-8522

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12-23 February 1996, UN Headquarters New York	*Third Substantive Session of Preparatory Committee for Habitat II* **Location:** New York, United States of America **Organizers:** UNCHS (Habitat) **Habitat Focal Point**: Mr. J. Mungai, United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3133; Fax: 254-2-62 4250
1996	
3-14 June 1996, Istanbul, Turkey **Habitat II**	***The Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)*** "The City Summit" **Location**: Istanbul, Turkey **Organizers:** The Government of Turkey and UNCHS (Habitat) **Habitat Focal Point**: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3133; Fax:254-2-62 4250 For more information contact: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; Tel: 254-2-62 3067; Fax: 254-2-62 4060; E-mail: habitat2@unep.no Habitat II Home Page: **http://habitat.cedar.univie.ac.at/habitat/** or **http://www.igc.apc.org/habitat/**

HABITAT II & THE INTERNET

Habitat II Secretariat
email:<Habitat2@unep.no>

The Habitat II secretariat has placed many documents and informational materials on the Internet. These are freely accessible to anyone with Internet access. The secretariat has also established an electronic list to allow a world-wide discussion of relevant issues. Gopher users will find Habitat II information on the "gopher.un.org" host under the "Conferences" directory.

World Wide Web (the Web) users will find this site by using the following URL:

http://habitat.cedar.univie.ac.at/habitat/
or
http://www.igc.apc.org/habitat/

gopher:

gopher://gopher.un.org:70/11/Conferences/

and

gopher://gopher.igc.apc.org:70/11/orgs/habitat/habitat2

Information on urban issues is also available on World Wide Web on the following Internet address

http://www.oneworld.org./

This Internet service, which focuses on all aspects of sustainable development, is being provided by a recently-established non-profit organization based in Oxford, U.K., called One World On-line. The information on urbanization is written by Herbert Girardet, acclaimed author of the *Gaia Atlas of Cities*, published by Gaia Books Limited (1992).

Habitat Debate seeks informed articles from those with experience in meeting human settlements challenges. If you would like to contribute, the Editorial Board, through its sub-groups on each issue, will consider your submission. Articles should be 1000 -1250 words long, while artwork may take the form of photographs, cartoons, graphs, diagrams, charts... While we cannot pay for your work, we will credit it, so please include a short by-line for that purpose. Originals of artwork must be sent, and articles preferably on a 5 1/4 inch diskette in WordPerfect 5.1. (If this is not possible, please post or fax the article double-spaced, on one side of the page only.)

The following topics will form the focus for future issues:

Housing for all
Strengthening local communities
Reducing poverty and promoting equity

We welcome suggestions as to topics for [illegible] Conference in Istanbul. [illegible] contributions.

Ellen Kit[illegible]
c/o UNCHS ([illegible]
P.O. Box [illegible]
[illegible]bi, Ke[illegible]
[illegible]: 6243[illegible]

Editorial Board, Vol.I, N[illegible]

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